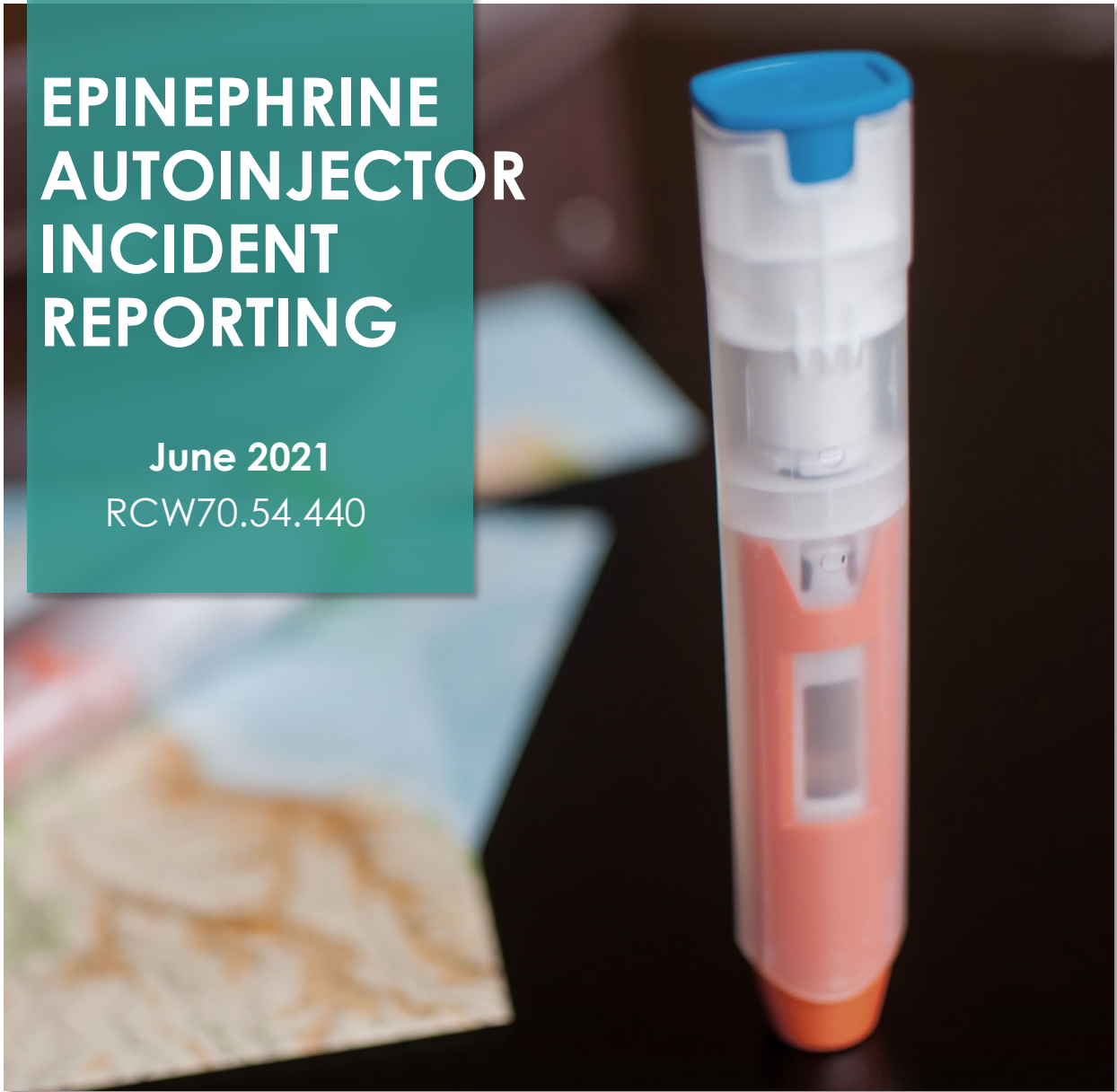


Report to the Legislature

EPINEPHRINE AUTOINJECTOR INCIDENT REPORTING

June 2021
RCW70.54.440



Prepared by

Health Systems Quality Assurance
Office of Health Professions



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Executive Summary

In 2016, the Washington State Legislature enacted [Substitute Senate Bill \(SSB\) 6421 \(Chapter 10, Laws of 2016\)](#), codified as [RCW 70.54.440](#), regarding epinephrine autoinjectors. The law allows health care providers with prescriptive authority to prescribe epinephrine autoinjectors to authorized organizations. Those authorized organizations could include, but are not limited to, restaurants, amusement parks, colleges, and camps.

RCW 70.54.440 requires these authorized organizations to report to the Washington State Department of Health (department) when an incident has occurred requiring the use of an epinephrine autoinjector. RCW 70.54.440 also requires the department to issue an annual report summarizing incidents of the use of epinephrine autoinjectors by authorized organizations. Since this law went into effect June 9, 2016, the department has not received any incident reports.

Background

[RCW 70.54.440](#) allows non-health care or non-school personnel to possess epinephrine autoinjectors in environments where a person could experience anaphylaxis, an extreme allergic reaction. Personnel must first receive training on how to identify anaphylaxis and administer epinephrine using the autoinjector device. This will help to keep people safe before an ambulance can arrive, which can take 20 minutes or more. Specifically, the law addresses:

- Access to epinephrine autoinjectors;
- Storage and maintenance of epinephrine autoinjectors;
- Training standards on recognizing anaphylaxis, storing and administering a device, and emergency follow-up procedures;
- Training verification; and
- Incident reporting of epinephrine autoinjector use by authorized organizations.

Implementation of the Law

The department reached out to a diverse set of stakeholders during the implementation of [RCW 70.54.440](#). Because the law may affect all Washingtonians, the department sought comments from stakeholders for more than a year, from Sept. 27, 2016, to Oct. 10, 2017, to incorporate robust feedback into creating and adopting rules. The department notified stakeholders, including universities, outdoor recreation organizations, and training providers, via email about the law.

Rules were adopted in February 2018 under [Chapter 246-570 WAC](#) to guide the implementation of the law. The rules outline specific requirements for training providers, training content, certificates of completion, the training approval process, and incident reporting of use of epinephrine autoinjectors.

Stakeholder Communication and Public Education

The department has published a [webpage](#) with information to assist the public, authorized organizations, prescribers, dispensers, and training providers with meeting the law's requirements. The information is presented in a "frequently asked questions" format. The department will continue to refine communication based on questions it receives from the public.

Incident Reporting

Since October 2017, the department has provided a web reporting tool for authorized organizations to report incidents of epinephrine autoinjector use. No incidents have been reported.

Training Opportunities

The department has approved epinephrine autoinjector and anaphylaxis training for 14 entities since 2018. The department will continue to process training provider applications to increase the opportunities for authorized organizations to acquire appropriate training.

Next Steps

The department will continue to evaluate communications with entities and the general public to improve reporting of the use of epinephrine autoinjectors, as intended by SSB 6421.