

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction which is potentially life threatening. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or an insect sting). Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to two hours or more. Anaphylaxis should always be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment. Most cases of anaphylaxis occur after a person is exposed to the allergen to which they are allergic, usually a food, insect sting or medication.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

| Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2.1.1 | Wellbeing and comfort | Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation |
| 2.1.2 | Health practices and procedures | Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented. |
| 2.2 | Safety | Each child is protected |
| 2.2.1 | Supervision | At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard |
| 2.2.2 | Incident and emergency management | Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented |

PURPOSE

We aim to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring at our Service by ensuring all staff members are adequately trained to respond appropriately and competently to an anaphylactic reaction.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the service.

DUTY OF CARE

Our Service has a legal responsibility to provide

- a. A safe environment
- b. Adequate Supervision

Staff members including relief staff need to know enough about Anaphylaxis reactions to ensure the safety of children.



BACKGROUND

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening.

The most common allergens in children are:

- Peanuts
- Eggs
- Tree nuts (e.g. cashews)
- Cow's milk
- Fish and shellfish
- Wheat
- Soy
- Sesame
- Certain insect stings (particularly bee stings)

The key to the prevention of anaphylaxis in Childcare Services is knowledge of those children who have been diagnosed as at risk, awareness of allergens, and prevention of exposure to those allergens.

Communication between the early childhood service and families is important in helping children avoid exposure.

Adrenaline given through an adrenaline autoinjector (such as an EpiPen[®]) into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

IMPLEMENTATION

We will involve all educators, families and children in regular discussions about medical conditions and general health and wellbeing throughout our curriculum. The Service will adhere to privacy and confidentiality procedures when dealing with individual health needs.

A copy of all medical conditions policies will be provided to all educators and volunteers and families of the Service. It is important that communication is open between families and educators to ensure appropriate management of anaphylactic reactions are effective.

It is imperative that all educators and volunteers at the service follow a child's Medical Management Plan in the event of an incident related to a child's specific health care need, allergy or medical condition.

Management, Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person will ensure:

- That all staff members have completed first aid and anaphylaxis management training approved by the Education and Care Services National Regulations at least every 3 years and is recorded, with each staff members' certificate held on the Service's premises.



- That all staff members, whether or not they have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis undertakes training in the administration of the adrenaline auto-injection device and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and updated as required.
- That all staff members are aware of symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction, the child at risk of anaphylaxis, the child's allergies, anaphylaxis action plan and EpiPen kit.
- That a copy of this policy is provided and reviewed regularly.
- A copy of this policy will be provided to a parent or guardian of each child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis at the Service.
- Updated information, resources and support are regularly given to families for managing allergies and anaphylaxis.

In services where a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis is enrolled the Nominated Supervisor shall also:

- Conduct an assessment of the potential for accidental exposure to allergens while child/children at risk of anaphylaxis are in the care of the Service and develop a risk minimisation plan for the Service in consultation with staff and the families of the child/children.
- Ensure that no child who has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injection device is permitted to attend the service without the device.
- Display an Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Inc. (ASCI) generic poster called Action Plan for Anaphylaxis for each child with a diagnosed risk of anaphylaxis, in key locations at the service, for example near the medication cabinet.
- Ensure that a child's individual anaphylaxis medical management action plan is signed by a Registered Medical Practitioner and inserted into the enrolment record for each child. This will outline the allergies and describe the prescribed medication for that child and the circumstances in which the medication should be used.
- Inform families, staff, visitors that we have a child with anaphylaxis to.....and are a "nut Free zone" with further information to explain what anaphylaxis is and why we are asking families to please avoid putting i.e nuts and food containing nuts in children's lunch boxes, about washing hands before coming to kindy. Staff will avoid using known allergens in cooking experiences with children.
- Ensure that a notice is displayed prominently in the main entrance of the children's service stating that a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis is being cared for or educated at the Service.
- Ensure that all relief staff members in the Service have completed training in the administration of anaphylaxis management including the administration of an adrenaline auto-injection device, awareness of the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction, the child at risk of anaphylaxis, the child's allergies, the individual anaphylaxis medical management action plan and the location of the auto-injection device kit.
- Record the adrenaline auto-injection device expiry date on STAR site tasks a month before its due. Send a reminder note home to the family to replace the epi pen. (The manufacturer will only guarantee the effectiveness of the adrenaline auto-injection device to the end of the nominated expiry month)

- Implement the communication strategy and encourage ongoing communication between parents/guardians and staff regarding the current status of the child's allergies, this policy and its implementation.
- Display an Emergency contact card by the telephone.
- Ensure that all staff in the Service know the location of the anaphylaxis medical management plan and that a copy is kept with the auto-injection device Kit.
- Ensure that the staff member accompanying children outside the Service carries the anaphylaxis medication and a copy of the anaphylaxis medical management action plan with the auto-injection device kit.

Educators will:

- Ensure a copy of the child's anaphylaxis medical management action plan is visible and known to staff in the Service.
- Follow the child's anaphylaxis medical management action plan in the event of an allergic reaction, which may progress to anaphylaxis.
- Practice the administration procedures of the adrenaline auto-injection device using an auto-injection device trainer and 'anaphylaxis scenarios' on a regular basis.
- Ensure the child at risk of anaphylaxis will only eat food that has been provided by his/her parents or caregivers through lunch care supervision.
- Educators will avoid using the known allergen in cooking experiences with children.
- If a lunch box contains a known allergen educators will provide a polite note to the family as a reminder and some suggestions for other types of sandwich fillings or snacks to provide at kindy.
- Ensure tables and bench tops are washed down effectively after eating.
- Ensure hand washing for all children before eating.
- Increase supervision of a child at risk of anaphylaxis on special occasions such as excursions, incursions, parties and family days.
- Ask all parents/guardians as part of the enrolment procedure, prior to their child's attendance at the Service, whether the child has allergies and document this information on the child's enrolment record. If the child has severe allergies, ask the parents/guardians to provide a medical management action plan signed by a Registered Medical Practitioner.
- Ensure that an anaphylaxis medical management action plan signed by the child's Registered Medical Practitioner and a complete auto-injection device kit (which must contain a copy the child's anaphylaxis medical management action plan) is provided by the parent/guardian for the child while at the Service.
- Ensure that the auto-injection device kit is stored in a location that is known to all staff, including relief staff; easily accessible to adults (not locked away); inaccessible to children; and away from direct sources of heat



- Ensure that the auto-injection device kit containing a copy of the anaphylaxis medical management action plan for each child at risk of anaphylaxis is carried by a staff member accompanying the child when the child is removed from the service e.g. on excursions that this child attends.
- Provide information to the service community about resources and support for managing allergies and anaphylaxis.
- In the event where a child who has not been diagnosed as allergic, but who appears to be having an anaphylactic reaction:
 - Call an ambulance immediately by dialing 000
 - Commence first aid measures
 - Contact the parent/guardian when practicable
 - Contact the emergency contact if the parents or guardian can't be contacted when practicable
 - Notify the regulatory authority within 24 hours

In the event that a child suffers from an anaphylactic reaction the Service and staff will:

- Follow the child's anaphylaxis action plan.
- Call an ambulance immediately by dialing 000
- Commence first aid measures
- Contact the parent/guardian when practicable
- Contact the emergency contact if the parents or guardian can't be contacted when practicable
- Notify the regulatory authority within 24 hours

Families will:

- Inform staff at the children's Service, either on enrolment or on diagnosis, of their child's allergies
- Develop an anaphylaxis risk minimisation plan with Service staff
- Provide staff with an anaphylaxis medical management action plan signed by the Registered Medical Practitioner giving written consent to use the auto-injection device in line with this action plan
- Provide staff with a complete auto-injection device kit
- Regularly check the adrenaline auto-injection device expiry date
- Assist staff by offering information and answering any questions regarding their child's allergies
- Notify the staff of any changes to their child's allergy status and provide a new anaphylaxis action plan in accordance with these changes
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns to staff, for example, any matter relating to the health of the child
- Comply with the service's policy that no child who has been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injection device is permitted to attend the Service or its programs without that device
- Read and be familiar with the policy



- Bring relevant issues, concerns , questions to the attention of the Kindy Director

EDUCATING CHILDREN

- Educators will talk to children about foods that are safe and unsafe for the anaphylactic child. They will use terms such as ‘this food will make _____ sick’, ‘this food is not good for _____’, and ‘ _____ is allergic to that food’.
- Staff will talk about symptoms of allergic reactions to children (e.g. itchy, furry, scratchy, hot, funny).
- With older children, staff will talk about strategies to avoid exposure to unsafe foods, such as taking their own plate and utensils, having the first serve from commercially safe foods, and not eating food that is shared.
- Educators will include information and discussions about food allergies in the programs they develop for the children, to help children understand about food allergy and encourage empathy, acceptance and inclusion of the allergic child.

Reporting Procedures

- After each emergency situation the following will need to be carried out:
 - Staff members involved in the situation are to inform the Director and complete an Incident Report on IRMS.
 - File a copy of the Incident Report on the child’s file.
 - The Nominated Supervisor or the Licensee is required to inform Department of Community Services/Regulatory Authority about the incident within 24 hours.
 - Staff will be debriefed after each anaphylaxis incident and the child’s Individual Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan evaluated.
 - Staff will need to discuss the effectiveness of the procedures that were in place.
 - Time is also needed to discuss the exposure to the allergen and the strategies that need to be implemented and maintained to prevent further exposure.

Contact details for resources and support:

- Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA), at www.allergy.org.au, provide information on allergies. Their sample Anaphylaxis Action Plan can be downloaded from this site. Contact details for Allergists may also be provided.
- Anaphylaxis Australia Inc., at [Allergy Facts](#), is a non-profit support organisation for families with food anaphylactic children. Items such as storybooks, tapes, auto-injection device trainers and so on are available for sale from the Product Catalogue on this site. Anaphylaxis Australia Inc. provides a telephone support line for information and support to help manage anaphylaxis. Telephone 1300 728 000.



Additional Information:

- SA
www.decs.sa.gov.au/speced2/pages/health/chessPathways

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority.
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- Staying Healthy in Child Care. 5th Edition
- Revised National Quality Standards

Review

| Policy Reviewed | Modifications | Next Review Date |
|---------------------|---|------------------|
| July 2017 | Changes made to introduction – a more detailed description | July 2018 |
| Aug 2017 | Updated to meet the National Law and/or National Regulations in respect of a serious incidents and notification purposes. | July 2018 |
| October 2017 | Updated the references to comply with revised National Quality Standard | July 2018 |
| July 2018 | Reviewed with staff. | Feb 2019 |
| Feb 2019 | Reviewed with staff and updated policy folder and web page. Noted in Parent handbook. No children with anaphylaxis this year. | Feb 2020 |