

ANAPHYLAXIS

AIM

To ensure that plans are in place to effectively manage anaphylaxis. To ensure parents, staff and medical professionals know their responsibilities when children are anaphylactic.

To ensure all children at the Centre with anaphylaxis have the correct action plans and medication at all times.

IMPLEMENTATION

Leadership will:

- Ensure staff anaphylaxis training is up to date and book training as needed.
- Complete an Anaphylaxis Risk Assessment/check list for the site while children with anaphylaxis are enrolled at the Centre
- Conduct an audit every six months (overseen by the Director/Assistant Director) to ensure that medication for each child is labeled and in date and the required paperwork for all conditions is complete and current.
- Oversee implementation of this policy.
- Complete a general action plan (orange plan) for anaphylaxis for use of the Department issued auto injector device.
- Store the Epi-pen supplied by the Department in an allergy buddy and ensure this medication is part of the site medication audit and is returned to a pharmacy for disposal when expired.
- Provide correct ASCIA forms to families based on medication needs (an 'ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis[red] plan' for children prescribed an auto injector device (Epi-Pen or AnaPen) or an 'ASCIA Action plan for Allergic Reactions[green] plan' for children with medically confirmed allergies). Refer to the ASCIA website for information on specific allergy plans, such as a Drug (Medication) Allergy.
- Review ASCIA Action Plans each time the child's medication expires and/or receives a new auto-injector.
- Complete an IRMS report anytime there is an anaphylaxis or allergy incident or near miss on-site.

The Centre Chef will:

- Keep records of all allergies and medical conditions in the kitchen.
- Ensure safe foods are provided for children with allergies and cross contamination is avoided.

Medical leader/Assistant Director will:

- Ensure any medication brought in for a child is named and labeled correctly as per **Dealing with Medical Conditions User Guide**.

Educators will:

- Undergo anaphylaxis training as part of their contract. Training is updated every three years.
- In the event a child is exposed to an allergen and displays signs of an allergic or anaphylactic reactions, will:
 - Follow the child's action plan to administer appropriate medication
 - Stay with the child and nominate an educator to call the ambulance
 - Nominate an educator to inform Leadership and call parents/guardians
 - Stay with the child until their family arrive (include travelling in ambulance with child)
 - Stay with child at hospital until handover with parents/guardians can occur (Educator should be qualified and familiar to child)
- Conduct an environment review every day an anaphylactic child is present at care.
- Check the meals served to the child to ensure that it adheres to their needs. Checks will be completed by the chef, the food server and the meal supervisor to avoid potential food triggers being given to the child (see procedure regarding serving food to children with allergies).

- Remain with the child and supervise them at all times that food is present and until the food is cleared and meal area cleaned.
- Ensure they know which Epi-pen belongs to which child and medication is stored correctly. Medication should be stored in an Allergy Buddy pocket with a photo of the child, a copy of their ASCIA plan and a permanent marker for writing date and time auto injector was used.
- Use the Department issued Epi-pen (located in the childcare Kitchen with the first aid kit) when a child's own Epi-pen is discovered to be out-of-date in an emergency, has misfired or they need a second dose after their Epi-pen has been used while an ambulance is on the way.
- Use the Department issued Epi-pen if a child without any confirmed allergies/medical conditions starts to suffer symptoms of anaphylaxis after calling an ambulance.
- Inform Leadership and the child's family immediately if an undiagnosed allergic or anaphylaxis reaction takes place at care after following normal first aid procedures (including use of general use auto-injector if needed).

Families will:

- **Not bring their child into the Centre without medication if they have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis or medically confirmed allergies.**
- Complete all forms required by the Centre with the assistance of a medical practitioner.
- Ensure their child's medication and action plans are current.
- Supply all medication required by the child with appropriate labels and forms as per **Dealing with Medical Conditions User Guide**.
- Notify staff if any new allergies or triggers are identified. Families must also notify the Centre if prescribed medication changes and complete the appropriate ASCIA plan.

EVALUATION:

This will be seen to be effective when:

- Staff are aware of how to treat children with anaphylaxis and allergies and provide safe learning environments for children with anaphylaxis.
- Families are aware of their responsibilities.
- There is an effective system for storing and accessing medication.

Links to National Quality Standards:

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

2.2.2 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.

Related policies:

Administration of First aid Policy

Enrolment Policy

Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy

Confidentiality Policy

Administration of Medication Policy

Supervision Policy

Medical Conditions Policy

Implemented: January 2011 (as Health Management)

Reviewed: October 2023 **Next Review:** October 2024

Source: "Procedure: Health Support Planning: Anaphylaxis and allergies in education and care", Department of Education, SA. Last updated December 2021.