Anaphylaxis Management

Definition
Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Although allergic reactions are common in children, severe life threatening allergic reactions are uncommon and deaths are rare. However, deaths have occurred and anaphylaxis must therefore be regarded as a medical emergency that requires a rapid response.

Management Plan
Every student who has been diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis must have an individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

The student’s Anaphylaxis Management Plan should clearly set out:
• type of allergy or allergies.
• student’s emergency contact details.
• practical strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens for in-school and out of class settings, including:
  » during classroom activities
  » in canteens or during lunch or snack times
  » before and after school, in the yard and during breaks
  » for special events such as incursions, sport days or class parties
  » for excursions and camps.
• name of the person/s responsible for implementing the strategies.
• information on where the EpiPen® will be stored.

The Anaphylaxis Management Plan should also include an ASCIA Action Plan, which sets out the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction. (ASCIA, the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, is the peak body of immunologists and allergists in Australia).

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to complete an ASCIA Action Plan, in consultation with their child’s medical practitioner, and provide a copy to the school. The ASCIA Action Plan must be signed by the student’s medical practitioner, and have an up to date photograph of the student.

A copy of the student’s ASCIA Action Plan should be kept in various locations around the school, such as in the student’s classroom, the canteen, the sick bay and the school office. It should be visible and/or easily accessible by staff in the event of an incident (See Section 5.5 Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Victorian Schools) in relation to privacy considerations.

An example of an Anaphylaxis Management Plan is in Appendix 1.

Keep information up to date
As a student’s allergies may change with time, it is important for schools to ensure that the student’s Anaphylaxis Management Plan and ASCIA Action Plan are kept current and reviewed annually with the student’s parents/carers. When reviewed, parents should also provide an updated photo of the child for the ASCIA Action Plan.

See also First Aid & Medicines Policy

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