

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

ANAPHYLAXIS

Description: A rare, extremely serious form of allergy. Usually develops suddenly and requires rapid management to prevent shock and possible fatality.

Causes: Extreme Sensitivities to:

1. Medication or immunization (usually by injection).
2. Insect sting, usually by a bee or wasp.
3. Food or oral medication.

Physical Findings:

1. Sudden onset.
2. Feeling of apprehension, sweating, and weakness.
3. Coughing and sneezing.
4. Abdominal cramps or diarrhea.
5. Nausea and vomiting.
6. Shallow respirations.
7. Facial edema around eyes and lips.
8. Signs of airway closure: Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, feeling of fullness in throat, wheezing, or stridor (laryngeal edema).
9. Hypotension, weak, rapid pulse, and low blood pressure.
10. Loss of consciousness, shock, and coma.

Treatment:

1. Immediate administration of epinephrine (*based on estimated weight*).
 - a. For 33-66 pounds 0.15 mg/cc
 - b. Over 66 pounds 0.30 mg/cc
2. Diligently observe the person.
3. Call 911 for transport to Emergency Room.
4. Notify parent/guardian.
5. Monitor and maintain the ABC's (airway, breathing, circulation) as needed.
6. If no breathing, begin CPR.
7. If bee sting, scrape gently to remove stinger.

Follow-Up:

1. Determine course of action in case of repeat reaction with individualized health care plan and emergency procedures.
2. Attempt to ensure no further exposure to the antigen.

Adopted: 6/8/15

Reference: This example taken directly from Wyoming Department of Education Guidelines, Memo No. 2014-146.

School District #1, Sweetwater County, Wyoming