

- AIM:** To ensure the best management of anaphylactic shock in a child who has a known or unknown allergy.
- RATIONALE:** Treatment for a severe allergic reaction must occur as soon as possible.
- SYMPTOMS:**
- Mild to moderate reaction:
- Swelling of lips, face, eyes
  - Hives or welts
  - Abdominal pain, vomiting
- Severe reaction (anaphylaxis):
- Difficulty with/noisy breathing
  - Swelling of tongue
  - Swelling, tightness in the throat
  - Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
  - Wheeze or persistent cough
  - Loss of consciousness
- IMPLEMENTATION:**
1. A child with a known allergy must have the Preschool's **Allergy Management Plan** completed by their medical practitioner before they commence.
  2. A child with anaphylaxis must have their EpiPen and any antihistamines with them at Preschool on all days that they attend. These will be kept in the child's Preschool group room in a cupboard that is inaccessible to children.
  3. A **Medical Action Plan** will be written at the child's commencement and will accompany the group at all times.
  4. The Preschool also will keep an EpiPen in a First Aid cupboard in each Preschool building. These can be used for a child with **anaphylaxis** if their EpiPen is faulty, out-of-date, or cannot be located in an emergency.
  5. After administering the EpiPen **the time it was administered** must be written on the child's hand.
  6. A used EpiPen must be disposed of by putting it back in the plastic cover. It should be given to the ambulance staff (if called).
  7. If a child with **no known allergy** suffers from an apparent allergic reaction at Preschool, the EpiPen **can be used by a staff member who has the advanced anaphylaxis training**. Staff must call 000 for an ambulance, and also call the child's parents.
  8. When an allergic reaction occurs **one staff member must stay with the child** and call for help. A **second staff member** firstly gets the child's medication, calling for a third staff member to call 000 for an ambulance and the child's

parents.

**It should be noted that a child can have an allergic reaction in the 2 hour period following contact with a trigger.**

### **REFERENCES**

*Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 85, 87, 90(1)(a)(b)(c), 91, 92(1)(3), 94(1)(2), 95.*