

Anaphylaxis Checklist for Pharmacists

1. Dispense prescribed adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjectors

- Dispense prescribed adrenaline autoinjector/s and check that the dose is appropriate: 150 microgram devices for children weighing 7.5 to 20kg and 300 microgram devices for children weighing over 20kg and adults, including pregnant women. Two devices for children or adults are rebated by the PBS in Australia. No devices are currently rebated by Pharmac in New Zealand.
- Remind the customer (patient and/or carer) to check and note the expiry date of their autoinjector/s and inform the customer of expiry reminder clubs (e.g. EpiClub).
- Check that the patient has an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED) that should have been completed by their doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Reinforce the need for the patient to always carry their adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan.
- Check that the patient's asthma is well managed and refer them back to their doctor or nurse practitioner if further action is required. Patients at risk of severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) who have asthma that is not well controlled are at increased risk of fatal anaphylaxis.

2. Dispense non-prescribed adrenaline autoinjectors

- Dispense adrenaline autoinjector/s to customers (patients/carers or organisations) for use in addition to prescribed devices or in first aid kits. Non-prescribed devices are not rebated by PBS or Pharmac.
- Remind the customer to check and note the expiry date of their adrenaline autoinjector/s.
- Check that the customer has an ASCIA First Aid Plan for Anaphylaxis (ORANGE) that should be stored with the non-prescribed device/s. These plans are available at www.allergy.org.au/anaphylaxis

3. Provide adrenaline autoinjector advice, education and training

- Teach the customer how to use their prescribed or non-prescribed adrenaline autoinjector/s using a trainer device. Trainer devices are available from the supplier or patient organisations (Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia www.allergyfacts.org.au or Allergy New Zealand www.allergy.org.nz).
- Educate the customer about correct storage of adrenaline autoinjectors, away from excessive heat or cooling. www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/adrenaline-autoinjector-storage-expiry-and-disposal
- Ensure the customer understands that adrenaline is the first line treatment for anaphylaxis and that antihistamines should not be used for the treatment for anaphylaxis. If antihistamines are used to treat mild to moderate allergic reactions, only non-sedating antihistamines should be used.

4. Be prepared for an anaphylaxis emergency

- Train staff to recognise the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, how to position the patient, how to administer adrenaline autoinjectors and to phone an ambulance immediately afterwards.
- Display ASCIA Action First Aid Plans for Anaphylaxis to assist staff in recognising and responding to an anaphylaxis emergency.

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