

THE GOWRIE (QLD) INC

ALLERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY

CONSIDERATIONS:

QIAS	Principle 5.5
REGS	Child Care Regulation 2003 Sections 56 / 97/ 98 / 99

POLICY STATEMENT:

To ensure that all appropriate and reasonable measures are taken to protect children with allergic reactions within the limits of the Service program.

RELEVANT FORMS/MATERIAL:

- ***The Gowrie Medication Form***
- ***The Gowrie Ongoing Medication Form***
- ***The Gowrie Report of Illness Form***
- ***Anaphylaxis Action Plan - download at***
- **<http://www.allergy.org.au/content/view/10/3/#r1>**

SOURCES:

- F.A.C.T.S. (2000) *What is Anaphylaxis? & Emergency Treatment* in www.allergyfacts.org.au accessed 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
- National Health & Medical Research Council (2005) *Staying Healthy in Child Care: Preventing infectious diseases in child care*. (4th Ed.) Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra.
- Kids with Food Allergies – www.kidswithfoodallergies.org accessed 2007, 2008, 2009

REVIEWED: July 2010

Date to Be Reviewed : July 2011

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

BACKGROUND

All staff hold a current Senior First Aid Certificate and annually staff holding a minimum of two year qualification, will be in-serviced on the treatment of children suffering from anaphylactic shock and requiring an injection of adrenalin ie EpiPen™.

A list of all children who suffer from severe allergic reactions will be compiled and all staff will be made aware of case histories and appropriate treatment including trigger factors for each child.

Children can get allergies from coming into contact with allergens. Some of the most common allergens are:

- pollens
- moulds
- dust mites
- animals dander (flaking skin) and saliva
- chemicals used in industry
- venom from insect stings
- some foods and medicines

Most common food allergens for children are:

- Cows milk
- Eggs
- Peanuts
- Fish and shellfish
- Soy beans, soy milk, soy flour
- Wheat
- Some berry fruits

The list of children and their allergies will be kept in the medication folder or designated area in each room in the Service.

A copy of each child's **Anaphylaxis Action Plan** will also be kept in medication folders and displayed in the room of the child as well as the kitchen, food trolleys and room fridges.

WHAT IS ANAPHYLAXIS?

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergy involving two or more body systems simultaneously (for example, - skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular), culminating in heart failure. Food allergy, insect stings and medication can cause severe anaphylaxis. Peanuts, nuts, eggs, milk, soy, sesame and shellfish are the foods that commonly trigger anaphylaxis. Even trace levels of these foods can cause anaphylactic reactions.

WHAT WE EXPECT OF PARENTS

<p>WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO</p>	<p>Prior to beginning care, parents of children who are known to suffer from serious allergic reactions are required to complete an Anaphylaxis Action Plan in consultation with a medical practitioner, an allergist or allergy clinic and Director. <i>(Sample attached)</i></p> <p><i>The information required is:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ details of the specific allergen the child needs to avoid ○ what symptoms to look out for ○ treatment required, including dosages of medications to pass on to hospital staff if needed ○ the availability of medication for the child's use at the Service ○ how the child reacts to the administration of the medication ○ written permission by the parents for staff to administer the medication. <p>Allergy management and the well-being of a child with allergy reactions is primarily the responsibility of the child's parent/guardian.</p> <p>Staff must be informed of any significant changes in the child's allergy management with a new Anaphylaxis Action Plan.</p> <p>Staff will only administer medication which is prescribed by a medical practitioner and is normally being received by the child.</p> <p>Allergy medication will be handed to a staff member who will store it in a safe place. It must be labeled clearly with the child's name and the dose of medication required.</p> <p>Parent must have completed an Ongoing Medication Form</p>
--------------------------------------	---

WHAT PARENTS CAN EXPECT OF STAFF

<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p>	<p>Be familiar with the symptoms of anaphylaxis, and severe allergic reactions and be current in their training of first aid.</p> <p>Observe strict hygiene routines – children and staff to wash hands before eating to prevent cross-contamination of food.</p> <p>Review each child's Anaphylaxis Action Plan with parent(s) every six months, or more frequently should any changes in treatment occur.</p> <p>Make photo identification notices identifying children with severe allergies and list allergy to alert any person entering the service of allergy and reaction</p>
----------------------------------	--

RESPONSE TO ANAPHYLAXIS INCIDENT

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

EpiPen™
Adrenalin Auto-injector is an intramuscular injection of adrenalin designed for lay use in the treatment of anaphylactic reactions.

Know the symptoms

Early symptoms of Anaphylaxis may include:

Itchiness of palms and soles, faintness, feeling of generalised warmth, tingling, throat or chest discomfort, unusual taste in the mouth and breathing difficulty, and often a rash around the mouth.

Advanced symptoms of Anaphylaxis may include:

Facial swelling, hives, breathing difficulty, choking or coughing, vomiting or stomach upset, dizziness, loss of consciousness, diarrhoea, cramping and a drop in blood pressure.

Reassure child

- Reassure the child and remove him/her to a quiet area under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced member of the staff.
- Inform the Director of the program immediately.
- Fetch the medication specific to that child

Steps to follow in an emergency

- 1. Administer Adrenalin injection (EpiPen™) – immediately**
- 2. Call an ambulance 000 – tell the operator that it is anaphylaxis and EpiPen has been administered.**

Director or primary carer to accompany the child in an ambulance with the Anaphylaxis Action Plan and enrolment details.

- 3. Notify parents/emergency contact.**
- 4. Complete an *Illness Form*.**
- 5. Notify the General Manager - Operations of what is taking place and any outcomes.**
- 6. Please note that the completion of all these tasks should be managed as efficiently and effectively as possible with the consideration of the child's wellbeing paramount at all times, and ensuring the safety of the other children in the group.**
- 7. Inform the relevant regulatory authority of the incident through your normal representative.**