

Policy for Management of Life-Threatening Allergies -EPIPENS

Applies to:	All students in colleges and boarding.
Approved by;	I certify I have reviewed this policy and verify that to the best of my knowledge it reflects current legislation and is in accordance with the wishes of the Principal and the Board of Directors.
Policy created/updated:	October 2017
Next review date:	October 2018
Policy to be reviewed by:	Terri Al-Rabee

Rationale:

A) Identification of Students at Risk

It is the **responsibility of the anaphylactic/potentially anaphylactic student's Parents/Guardian to inform the college** of any potential/life threatening allergy.

All staff members need to be made aware of these students.

A photograph and a description of each Student's allergy should be kept discretely in College/Boarding. Student's permission is required for this.

B) Availability and Location of EpiPens

Anaphylactic or potentially anaphylactic Student's should **carry at least one EpiPen with them at all times** and have a spare in their respective College/Boarding house. As a precaution, the College will keep 2 extra EpiPens in reception, in case of an emergency

It cannot be presumed that student/adult will self-administer their autoinjector.

(The individual might not be able to self-administer while having a reaction.)

Flash cards describing the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and the use of the EpiPen are found inside the emergency orange wallet and training offered as part of first aid training.

Students who are no longer allergic or no longer require an EpiPen must present a letter of explanation from their Allergist/GP.

Additional EpiPens should be brought on field trips.

C) Treatment Protocol

An individual treatment protocol needs to be established by the child's Allergist/GP/Nurse.

A copy of this should be present in each student's confidential file and a Grab sheet kept by the College and Boarding house. The College and kitchen will have a photoboard of the Student.

To manage an emergency, a routine must be established and practiced:

- A.** One person stays with the individual at all times.
- B.** One person goes for help.
- C.** Administer epinephrine at the **first sign** of reaction, however slight (e.g. itching or swelling of the lips/mouth in food allergic students). **There are no contraindications to the use of epinephrine for a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.** Note time of administration.
- D.** Call 999 and, regardless of the degree of reaction or response to epinephrine, transfer the Student to an emergency room. Symptoms may recur up to eight hours after exposure to allergen. One calm and familiar person must stay with the Student until a Paramedic/Parent or Guardian arrives.
- E.** Contact the Student's Parents/Guardian/Boarding House.

Adults must be encouraged to listen to the concerns of the anaphylactic student. The student usually knows when they are having a reaction, even before signs manifest.

D) Training

Each year there should be awareness sessions and training for all staff, which includes a demonstration on the use of the EpiPen.

As a quick refresher on a periodic basis, the Nurse can oversee teachers and allow practice with trainer EpiPens.

Substitute/Supply teachers will be advised to review the Public Medical Issues list to ensure they are aware of Students in their class and to review emergency protocol

E) Allergen Awareness / Allergen Avoidance

The question of banning anything in College is controversial. We live in a world that is contaminated with potential allergens. Anaphylactic Students must learn to avoid specific triggers.

While the key responsibility lies with the anaphylactic individual and their family, catering staff will be made aware of all Students with food allergens and will provide for them appropriately

References:

<http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/26974>

www.anaphylaxis.org.uk

<http://www.epipen.co.uk/patients/epipenr-user-guide/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjN3koJe4Js>