Anaphylaxis Policy

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapid and potentially fatal allergic reaction that involves the major body systems, particularly breathing or circulation systems. This policy outlines strategies that we will employ to ensure that anaphylaxis is managed at our centre at all times. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires immediate treatment.

The aim of this policy is to:

- minimize the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring while the child is in the care of the children’s service
- ensure that staff members respond appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction by initiating appropriate treatment including competently administering an EpiPen
- raise the service community’s awareness of anaphylaxis and its management through education and policy implementation

Staff responsible for the child at risk of anaphylaxis shall:

- ensure a copy of the child’s anaphylaxis action plan is visible to all staff and displayed in a central location in the room also for current copies of these plans to be available in the children’s kitchen & staffroom
- follow the child’s anaphylaxis action plan in the event of an allergic reaction, which may progress to anaphylaxis
- in the situation where a child who has not been diagnosed as allergic, but who appears to be having an anaphylactic reaction staff will:
  - Call an ambulance immediately by dialing 000
  - Commence first aid measures
  - Administer a EpiPen or EpiPen junior should paramedic staff advise to do so (The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre has one (1) emergency EpiPen located in the first aid drawer in the Directors office)
  - Contact the parents / guardian
  - Contact the person to be notified in the event of illness if the parents / guardian cannot be contacted
- staff will be trained in Anaphylaxis Management and practise EpiPen administration procedures using an EpiPen trainer and “anaphylaxis scenarios” on a regular basis, preferably quarterly.
- we ask all parents/guardians as part of the enrolment procedure, prior to their child’s attendance at the service, whether the child has allergies and document this information on the child’s enrolment record. If the child has allergies, ask the parents/guardians to provide a medical management plan signed by a Doctor
- ensure that parents/guardians provide an anaphylaxis action plan signed by the child’s Doctor and a complete EpiPen kit while the child is present at the service. A child with anaphylaxis will not be able to attend our service without an anaphylaxis action plan and EpiPen kit
- ensure that the EpiPen kit is stored in a location that is known to all staff, including relief staff; easily accessible to adults (not locked away); inaccessible to children; and away from direct sources of heat
- ensure that the EpiPen kit for each child at risk of anaphylaxis is carried by a trained
adult on excursions that this child attends

- regularly check the EpiPen expiry date. (The manufacturer will only guarantee the effectiveness of the EpiPen to the end of the nominated expiry month)
- provide information to the service community about resources and support for managing allergies and anaphylaxis

The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre has an in date Epipen for emergency purposes only. It is most important that each child has their own Epipen whilst attending the centre.

Parents / guardians of a child at risk of anaphylaxis shall:

- inform staff either on enrolment or later diagnosis of their child’s allergies
- provide staff with an anaphylaxis medical management action plan signed by the registered medical practitioner giving written consent to use the EpiPen in line with this action plan
- provide staff with a complete EpiPen kit and regularly check the expiry date
- assist staff by offering information and answering any questions regarding their child’s allergies
- notify the staff of any changes to their child’s allergy status and provide a new anaphylaxis action plan in accordance with these changes
- communicate all relevant information and concerns to staff, for example, any matter relating to the health of the child
- provide an ongoing Communication Plan
- comply with the service’s policy that no child who has been prescribed an EpiPen is permitted to attend the service or its programs without that EpiPen

Anaphylaxis is a preventable and treatable event. Knowing the triggers is the first step in prevention. Parents and caregivers need to be educated on how to avoid the allergens. They also need to know how to manage accidental exposure and administer adrenaline in an emergency.

A notice will be displayed in the main foyer of the centre advising people entering that “There is a child in attendance who is diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis”.

Source

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