



The Anaphylaxis campaign
Helping people with severe allergies live their lives.

Sample protocol

This sample protocol was compiled based on working documents now in use for children in schools in Berkshire, Birmingham, Dudley and Hampshire. The schools and Local Education Authorities have kindly shared them with The Anaphylaxis Campaign. It is for guidance only. An individual protocol for each patient must be developed based on the clinical judgement of the patient's GP or consultant.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 It is thought probable that John may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if he eats nuts or products containing nuts.

If this occurs he is likely to need medical attention and, in an extreme situation, his condition may be life threatening. However, medical advice is that attention to his diet, in particular the exclusion of nuts, together with the availability of his emergency medication, are all that is necessary. In all other respects, it is recommended by his consultant that his education should carry on "as normal".

1.2 John also suffers from a mild asthmatic condition and may therefore need occasional access to his inhaler.

1.3 The arrangements set out below are intended to assist John, his parents and the school in achieving the least possible disruption to his education, but also to make appropriate provision for his medical requirements.

2. DETAILS

2.1 The head teacher will arrange for the teachers and other staff in the school to be briefed about John's condition and about other arrangements contained in this document.

2.2 The school staff will take all reasonable steps to ensure that John does not eat any food items unless they have been prepared/approved by his parents.

2.3 John's parents will remind him regularly of the need to refuse any food items which might be offered to him by other pupils.

2.4 In particular, John's parents will provide for him

- a suitable mid-morning snack
- a suitable packed lunch
- suitable sweets to be considered as "treats", and to be kept by the class teacher.

2.5 If there are any proposals which mean that John may leave the school site, prior discussions will be held between the school and John's parents in order to agree appropriate provision and safe handling of his medication.

2.6 Whenever the planned curriculum involves cookery or experimentation with food items, prior discussions will be held between the school and parents to agree measures and suitable alternatives.

2.7 The school will hold, under secure conditions, appropriate medication, clearly marked for use by designated school staff or qualified personnel and showing an expiry date.

A bottle of PIRITON medicine and two EPIPENS are to be held in the head teacher's office. The parents accept responsibility for maintaining appropriate up-to-date medication.

3. ALLERGIC REACTION

3.1 In the event of John showing any physical symptoms for which there is no alternative explanation, his condition will be immediately reported to the headteacher/teacher in charge.

On receipt of such a report, the person in charge, if agreeing that his condition is a cause for concern, will instruct a staff member to contact in direct order of priority;

AMBULANCE - EMERGENCY SERVICES 999

G.P. - 447 5894 / 447 689

LOCAL HEALTH CENTRE - 447 889

MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN - ANAPHYLAXIS

and then his parents in the following order:

mother - 447 665

father - 343 675

grandparents - 656 787

3.2 Whilst awaiting medical help the head teacher and designated staff will assess John's condition and administer the appropriate medication in line with perceived symptoms and following closely the instructions given by the paediatrician during the staff training session.

3.3 The following procedure will be followed:

Bad tummy-ache ... itchiness ... irritated ... distressed ... tickly throat ...

JOHN WILL BE GIVEN PIRITON.

Wheeziness ... pale ... drowsy ... having difficulty breathing ... blue lips ... losing consciousness

JOHN WILL BE GIVEN THE EPIPEN ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTION INTO THE OUTER SIDE OF THE THIGH, MIDWAY BETWEEN KNEE AND HIP.

3.4 The administration of this medication is safe for John and even if it is given through a misdiagnosis it will do him no harm.

3.5 On the arrival of the qualified medical staff the teacher in charge will appraise them of the medication given to John. All medication will be handed to the medical person.

3.6 After the incident a debriefing session will take place with all members of staff involved.

3.7 Parents will replace any used medication.

4. TRANSFER OF MEDICAL SKILLS

4.1 Volunteers from the school staff have undertaken to administer the medication in the unlikely event of John having an allergic reaction.

4.2 A training session was attended by seven members of the school staff. Doctor T. Fox, the community paediatrician, explained in detail John's condition, the symptoms of the anaphylactic reaction and the stages and procedures for the administration of medication.

4.3 Further advice is available to the school staff at any point in the future where they feel the need for further assistance. The medical training will be repeated at the beginning of the next academic year.

4.4 The city council provides a staff indemnity for any school staff who agree to administer medication to a child in school given the full agreement of parents and school.

STAFF INDEMNITY

The city council fully indemnifies its staff against claims for alleged negligence, providing they are acting within the scope of their employment, have been provided with adequate training, and are following the LEA's guidelines. For the purposes of indemnity, the administration of medicines falls within this definition and hence the staff can be reassured about the protection their employer provides. The indemnity would cover the consequences that might arise where an incorrect dose is inadvertently given or where the administration is overlooked. In practice indemnity means the city council and not the employee will meet the cost of damages should a claim for alleged negligence be successful. It is very rare for school staff to be sued for negligence and instead the action will usually be between the parent and employer.

5. AGREEMENT AND CONCLUSION

5.1 A copy of these notes will be held by the school and the parents. A copy will be sent to The Local Health Centre, Dr. Fox, the G.P. and the Local Education Authority for information.

Any necessary revisions will be the subject of further discussions between the school and the parents.

On a termly basis, any changes in routine will be noted and circulated.

AGREED and SIGNED :

On behalf of the school -

Head Teacher date Chair of G.B. date -

Parents of John Smith -

Date -

Conclusion

A child at risk of anaphylaxis presents a challenge to any school. However, with sound precautionary measures and support from the staff and the doctor responsible, school life may continue as normal for all concerned.

Further information about anaphylaxis and The Anaphylaxis Campaign can be obtained by calling The Anaphylaxis Campaign on **01252 542029** or visiting www.anaphylaxis.org.uk