

Anaphylaxis Management Training

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction when a person is exposed to an allergen. Up to two percent of the general population and up to five percent of young children are at risk. The most common causes of allergic reactions in young children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, cow's milk, bee and other insect stings and certain medications. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency and requires a rapid response.

I have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled in the children's service I work in. What do I have to do?

The *Children's Services Act 1996* requires that the proprietor must ensure that there is an anaphylaxis management policy in place containing prescribed matters. These matters, practices and procedures related to anaphylaxis management and staff training are included in the amended Children's Services Regulations 1998.

Does everyone need to do anaphylaxis management training?

No. If you have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled in your service, it is the responsibility of the proprietor to ensure that all staff members on duty in the children's service when that child is attending have completed accredited anaphylaxis management training. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development currently funds The Asthma Foundation of Victoria to provide free training to eligible children's services. This training is provided where services have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled. Children's services may also access 'fee for service' training through a Registered Training Organisation offering accredited anaphylaxis management training.

If your children's service does not have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled or attending staff are not required to attend accredited anaphylaxis management training. However, all staff members in children's services must undertake training in and practice of the administration of the EpiPen[®]. This can be achieved in a range of ways:

- using the trainer EpiPen[®] and the CD Rom in the Anaphylaxis Resource Kit
- undertaking an accredited anaphylaxis management course
- undertaking training with a qualified practitioner e.g. general practitioner, specialist allergy nurse, ambulance officer.

What will happen if staff do not attend training and they have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled in their service?

The Children's Services Regulation 1998 require that where there is a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis being cared for or educated in a service all staff on duty when that child is being cared for or educated have undertaken anaphylaxis management training that is recognised by the Secretary and published in the Victorian Government Gazette (r26) Additionally this training must be recorded in the staff records (r19).

Anaphylaxis Management Training cont

Who is providing the free training and how do I access it?

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria, through its network of trainers is currently funded to provide accredited anaphylaxis management training free of charge to eligible children's services. Please contact Paula Murray at The Asthma Foundation of Victoria, on telephone (03) 9326 7088 with any queries about this training.

While all attempts will be made to provide free training at a time and place that is most convenient for a children's service it cannot be guaranteed. It is the responsibility of the proprietor to ensure that all staff attend accredited anaphylaxis management training.

If you are unable to attend a free session that has been scheduled, children's services may undertake 'fee for service' training through a Registered Training Organisation that offers accredited anaphylaxis management training.

How can I prove staff members have completed anaphylaxis management training?

Make a copy of each staff member's Statement of Attainment of training and attach it to their staff record (r.19). Children's Services Advisers will check staff records to ensure that where services are caring for or educating a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis all staff members on duty have undertaken anaphylaxis management training.

How do I know if a child at risk of anaphylaxis is enrolled?

A child is considered to be at risk of anaphylaxis if the child's doctor has provided a diagnosis of the child's severe allergy. All children who are diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis should have a medical management action plan signed by a registered medical practitioner. This medical management plan must be provided to the children's service and inserted into the child's enrolment record. All staff in the children's service must be advised of the medical management plan and the medications prescribed.

Most children diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis are prescribed an EpiPen[®], which is an auto-injection device to administer adrenaline in the event of an anaphylactic reaction.

What is anaphylaxis management training?

Anaphylaxis management training is accredited training that includes information about allergies and anaphylaxis, recognising signs and symptoms, managing and treating an allergic reaction (including administration of an EpiPen[®]) and minimising the risk of exposure to allergens in children's services.

How much does anaphylaxis management training cost?

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development currently funds The Asthma Foundation of Victoria to provide this training free of charge to eligible children's services staff.

If you are unable to attend a free session that has been scheduled children's services are also able to access 'fee for service' training through a Registered Training Organisation who offers accredited anaphylaxis management training.

Who is responsible for ensuring that staff members attend anaphylaxis training?

It is the responsibility of the proprietor to ensure compliance with the training requirements.

Anaphylaxis Management Training cont

Who is eligible to attend the free training?

All staff members currently employed in a children's service including kindergarten, centre based long day care, family day care, occasional care and outside school hours care services, where a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis is enrolled are eligible to attend the free training.

All staff members and any other persons associated with the children's service, such as cooks, office staff, trainees and volunteer workers are entitled to attend the free training.

Children's Services staff may also access fee for service training from a Registered Training Organisation.

What does the *Course in Anaphylaxis Awareness 21827VIC* involve?

The *Course in Anaphylaxis Awareness 21827VIC* is a short course of 3 hours contact time plus time required for the participant to develop a Risk Assessment Plan in their workplace (identified as a nominal 6 hours). The course has currency for 3 years.

To gain a statement of attainment participants must achieve competency/complete the following;

1. Recognition of allergy and anaphylaxis – scenario tested competency
2. Administer an EpiPen® – scenario tested competency
3. Demonstrate knowledge of policy/allergy – True/False knowledge test
4. Complete a risk assessment of their workplace – random follow up will occur within 6 weeks of participant completing the course.

I have undertaken the *Course in First Aid of Anaphylaxis (21659VIC)*, is this recognized accredited training?

Yes. This course was modified in 2008 to include risk minimisation and to remove the CPR pre-requisite. If you have undertaken this course since June 2008 it is recognized by the Secretary for the purpose of the Children's Services Regulations 1998. The statement of results must indicate that units VBP434 - first aid management of severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis and VPAU320 - risk minimisation and management strategies for allergic reaction and anaphylaxis, have been completed.

When is anaphylaxis management training provided?

Free sessions are currently available in anaphylaxis management training for eligible staff. Please contact Paula Murray at The Asthma Foundation of Victoria for training dates and locations, on telephone (03) 9326 7088.

Can anyone else other than The Asthma Foundation of Victoria deliver Anaphylaxis Management training?

Yes. Registered Training Organisations offering accredited anaphylaxis management training can also provide training. This will be on a 'fee for service' basis.

Can I do the free training if the children's service does not have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled in their service?

No. You are not eligible to attend the free training if your children's service does not have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled. You may access accredited anaphylaxis management training from a Registered Training Organisation who offers training on a 'fee for service' basis.

Anaphylaxis Management Training cont

I don't have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled. Will I still be able to attend the free training in 2008?

You are not eligible to attend free training through The Asthma Foundation of Victoria unless you have a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolled in your service. If during 2008, a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis enrolls in your service and staff do not have current anaphylaxis management training, contact Paula Murray from The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on (03) 9326 7088 to register for a session.

I am responsible for children diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis at a primary school. Can I attend this training?

The anaphylaxis management training through The Asthma Foundation of Victoria is for eligible children's services staff only. School staff are required to complete anaphylaxis management training should contact Ambulance Victoria on 1800 248 859 or the Student Wellbeing Branch at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, on telephone (03) 9637 2017, to discuss their training needs.