

SAFETY ALERT

TO:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
DIRECTORS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS NSW
DIRECTORS, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
PRINCIPALS
WHS MANAGERS
WHS CONSULTANTS

SAFETY ALERT No 61

ASCIA ALLERGIC REACTION, ANAPHYLAXIS AND GENERAL ACTION PLANS UPDATED

On Tuesday 2 August 2016, the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) published its updated 2016 Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and Allergic reactions.

The main changes to these plans are:

- an increased emphasis of key messages, with the inclusion of images to show how to position a person with anaphylaxis;
- revised wording regarding the importance of giving an adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector first, then asthma medication to a person with severe allergy and asthma; and
- the addition of the wording 'hold leg still' to the 'how to give EpiPen instructions'.

ASCIA Action Plans should be reviewed when patients are reassessed by their doctor, and each time they obtain a new adrenaline auto-injector prescription, which is approximately every 12 to 18 months. If there are no changes in diagnosis or management, the medical information on the ASCIA Action Plan may not need to be updated. However, if the patient is a child, the photo should be updated each time, so that they can be easily identified.

ASCIA Action Plans for personal use will be transitioned to the updated 2016 version as students visit their doctor.

Schools will soon be receiving replacement EpiPens for stock expiring in September. In this package you will also receive hard copies of the 2016 general use ASCIA Actions Plans. Additionally you can visit the [Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy website](#) to download a soft copy of the action plan you require.

What's next?

- Familiarise yourself with the changes within the 2016 updated ASCIA Action Plans.
- Ensure ASCIA Action Plans for general use located in first aid kits or first aid rooms are updated and old plans removed.
- Review expiry dates of student EpiPens and ensure there is a process in place for the replacement of expiring EpiPens and receipt of updated personal ASCIA and individual health care plans.

Schools are also reminded that if an incident has occurred in which you have used an adrenaline auto-injector, or have been required to call an ambulance due an allergic or anaphylactic reaction, a notification must be reported to the Department's Incident Report and Support Hotline on 1800 811 523.

Alternatively if you would like advice on the management of anaphylaxis, allergic reactions or ASCIA Action Plans please contact your [WHS Consultant](#).



Marnie O'Brien
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