

ASCIA Action Plan for Drug Allergy 2023 - What's New?

ASCIA has developed a new 2023 version of the green **ASCIA Action Plan for Drug (Medication) Allergy**, which is available from June 2023 onwards. The updates have been made to improve ease of use and are consistent with the changes made to the red ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis. This is the first major formatting change in 20 years, since ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis were first introduced in 2003.

ascia
australian society of clinical immunology and allergy
www.allergy.org.au

ACTION PLAN FOR Drug (Medication) Allergy

Name: _____ Date of birth: DD / MM / YYYY
Confirmed allergen(s): _____

Family/emergency contact(s):
1. _____ Mobile: _____
2. _____ Mobile: _____

Plan prepared by: _____ (doctor or nurse practitioner)
who authorises medications to be given, as consented by the patient or parent/guardian, according to this plan.

Signed: _____ Date: DD / MM / YYYY
Antihistamine: _____ Dose: _____

This plan does not expire but review is recommended by: DD / MM / YYYY

MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTIONS

SIGNS:

- Swelling of lips, face, eyes
- Hives or welts
- Sudden onset sneezing, rhinitis
- Tingling mouth
- Abdominal pain, vomiting

ACTIONS:

- Stay with person, call for help
- Locate adrenaline (epinephrine) injector (if available)
- **Give antihistamine - see above**
- Phone family/emergency contact

Mild to moderate allergic reactions may not always occur before anaphylaxis

SIGNS OF ANAPHYLAXIS (SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS)

Watch for **ANY ONE** of the following signs:

- Difficult or noisy breathing
- Swelling of tongue
- Swelling or tightness in throat
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Difficulty talking or hoarse voice
- Persistent dizziness or collapse
- Pale and floppy (young children)

ACTIONS FOR ANAPHYLAXIS

- LAY PERSON FLAT - do NOT allow them to stand or walk**
 - If unconscious or pregnant, place in recovery position - on left side if pregnant
 - If breathing is difficult allow them to sit with legs outstretched
 - Hold young children flat, not upright
- GIVE ADRENALINE INJECTOR IF AVAILABLE**
- Phone ambulance - 000 (AU) or 111 (NZ)
- Phone family/emergency contact
- Transfer person to hospital for at least 4 hours of observation

IF IN DOUBT GIVE ADRENALINE INJECTOR

Commence CPR at any time if person is unresponsive and not breathing normally

ALWAYS GIVE ADRENALINE INJECTOR FIRST and then asthma reliever puffer if someone with known asthma and allergy to food, insects or medication (who may have been exposed to the allergen) has SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY (including wheeze, persistent cough or hoarse voice) even if there are no skin symptoms.

If adrenaline is accidentally injected, phone your local poisons information centre. Continue to follow this action plan for the person with the allergic reaction.

© ASCIA 2023 This plan should be used in conjunction with the patient's ASCIA Record for Drug (Medication) Allergy.
This is a medical document that can only be completed by the patient's doctor or nurse practitioner and cannot be altered without their permission.

Patient specific details are all completed in this top section

Signs and actions for mild to moderate allergic reactions are in two easy to follow lists

Signs and actions for anaphylaxis are unchanged

Wording about allergen exposure is included in the asthma section

ascia RECORD FOR Drug (Medication) Allergy

DRUG ALLERGIES FOR ASSESSMENT

Drug	Reaction/Effect/Type	Date of Onset	Response/Treatment

DRUG SIDE EFFECTS AND INTOLERANCES

Drug	Reaction/Effect/Type	Date of Onset

NOTE:
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An ASCIA Record for Drug (Medication) Allergy (GREEN) (2023 version) should be completed and used in conjunction with the ASCIA Action Plan for Drug (Medication) Allergy