

# D-15 Allergies

Epping Heights OSHC.

## NQS

QA. 2.1	Health.
QA. 2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort.
QA. 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures.
QA. 4.2.2	Professional standards.
QA. 6.1	Supportive relationships with families.
QA. 6.1.1	Engagement with the service.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.

## National Law & Regulations

Reg. 77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg. 90	Medical conditions policy
Reg. 91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
Reg. 162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
S167	Offence relation to protection of children from harm and hazards

## My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children and young people feel safe, secure, and supported
LO. 3	Children and young people have a strong sense of wellbeing

## POLICY STATEMENT

We aim to provide safe and effective care of children by ensuring the staff are fully aware of the individual needs of all children, including their reactions to, and management of, allergies.

Policies and practices relating to allergy management will be reviewed regularly.

## RELATED POLICIES

- Epping Heights OSHC Policy A-4: Enrolment
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-3: Staff Orientation and Induction
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-9: Relief Staff
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-10: Volunteers/Students/Visitors
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-1: Dealing with Medical Conditions
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-3: Food and Nutrition

- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-4: Food Safety and Handling
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-17: Anaphylaxis
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-20: Medication

## **PROCEDURE**

Parents will be asked to inform the Centre of any allergies the child may have at the time of enrolment. This information is recorded online as part of the enrolment process. Any changes to a child's allergy status must be informed to the centre as soon as it is known (including a new diagnosis, or changes to a current diagnosis). Parents are reminded of this requirement through the Family Handbook and the Information Brochure.

All staff are informed of the current enrolments with allergies on an ongoing basis.

Doctor diagnosed allergies will require the completion of a Medical Management plan developed in conjunction with the child's doctor and parent explaining the effects if the child was to be exposed to a particular allergen and the action required as per Regulation 90. Parents of children with Anaphylaxis will be required to provide an ASCIA "Action Plan for Anaphylaxis" from the child's doctor. Children with a food or insect allergy will be required to provide an ASCIA "Action plan for Allergic Reactions". In the case of any other allergy, such as medication, a letter from a Medical Practitioner with the above-mentioned inclusions must be provided. To ensure accuracy of the information, ASCIA plans must be provided prior to the review date noted, or alternatively where no date is provided prior to the review date noted. Without these plans, a child's enrolment will not be confirmed.

Parents / Guardians are responsible for organising a medical appointment and providing an updated plan to the centre. Centre staff will follow this up with the family if not received, and where the plans are not forthcoming, may suspend a child's enrolment at the service until the plan is received. Any medication listed on the Medical Management Plan must be supplied by the parents prior to the child's first attendance at the centre. Where the medication is taken home in between attendances, it must be returned to the service for a child to be accepted into care for the session. Medication must meet the guidelines referred to in Policy D-20: Medication, and in line with Regulation 95.

It is a requirement of the Centre to meet its regulatory obligations that a risk minimisation plan and a communication plan be developed in consultation with the parents. The Nominated Supervisor will utilise information received by the parents and health professionals to pre-complete this plan, then share it with the family for specific information to be completed. The content of planning will include:

- Identification of any risks to the child or others by their attendance at the Centre
- Identification of any practices or procedures that need adjustment at the Centre to minimise risk
- Process and timeline for orientation procedures for educators

- Methods for communicating between parents and educators any changes to the child's medical management plan.

This plan may also include more information with relation to the allergens, such as impact on programmed activities and non-ingestion activities, and/or alternative foods the child may be able to eat. Through this plan, permission will be sought from the parent for their child's action plan to be placed in a visible spot in the kitchen.

All staff will be informed of the current enrolments with allergies on an ongoing basis. A list will be kept of all children with particular allergies and staff will be responsible for referring to the list at the commencement of each shift.

All relief staff and volunteers will be informed of the list on initial employment and provided orientation on what action to take in the event of a medical emergency involving the child.

Parents/guardians of child with an allergy are provided access to a copy of the 'Allergies' policy (Regulation 91).

Practices and procedures in relation to safe food preparation and consumption will be reviewed each time an enrolment for a child with a Severe Allergy is accepted at the centre. At minimum, this policy will be reviewed every 12 months.

If relevant, policies and practices in relation to specific needs of individual children will be developed and implemented.

Signs at the centre will discourage parents from providing their children with nut/seed products as this is a common allergen.

## **SOURCES**

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- United Nations Rights of the Child (Article 24)
- NSW Public Health Act 2010
- Disability discrimination Act – federal 1992
- NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- My Time Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia – V2.0
- Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Information for patients, Consumer and Carers: ASCIA Action Plans frequently asked questions April 2022
- Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)

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