

ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF POTENTIAL ANAPHYLAXIS POST COVID-19 VACCINATION

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BACKGROUND

Anaphylaxis, an acute and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction, is a severe allergic reaction that can occur after vaccination. It is characterized by symptoms such as hives, swelling, and difficulty breathing. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency and requires immediate treatment with epinephrine. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the assessment and management of potential anaphylaxis post COVID-19 vaccination.



ANNEX: PREPARING “EPINEPHRINE KIT S” FOR ANAPHYLAXIS

INTRODUCTION






Epinephrine administered intramuscular (IM) is the first-line treatment for the patient experiencing anaphylaxis.

Epinephrine should always be readily available in case of anaphylaxis due to medications and other triggers. Although epinephrine auto-injectors are easy to use and result in less delays in epinephrine administration they are costly. For this reason, we are providing guidance on the logistics of preparing an “epinephrine kit”.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR PREPARING AN “EPINEPHRINE KIT”

The following items should be part of an “epinephrine kit” and can be easily assembled in the clinic/hospital. Each clinic/hospital should have at least THREE kits available at any given time, or quantities determined by number of people attending vaccination clinic.

Please note that the items below are only for one kit.

Item	Picture *	Quantity
Epinephrine injection 1mg/mL ampule		1
Label stating “For IM use only”. This medication should NOT be given Intravenous (IV).		1
1 mL syringe		1
1½ inch Safety Glide needle (22-25G depending on what is available)		1
Alcohol swab		2

*Photos included are only examples. Supplies may differ by duty station and/or clinic based on local procurement and availability. Other items which may be required include gloves, scissors to cut clothes.

EPINEPHRINE SYRINGE PREPARATION

Epinephrine should be drawn up at the time of anaphylaxis. Given that epinephrine is sensitive to light and needs to be stored at 15-30 °C, it is not advised that epinephrine is drawn up in advance of a clinic as this can lead to errors and degradation of the medication.

Ensure that the medication is drawn up by those with the correct training and knowledge on how to do so and can do this under pressure, as every minute counts during anaphylaxis.

DELAYS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. Therefore, please practice the process described below if you are not familiar with it.

An epinephrine ampule of 1 mg/mL should be used (see picture above):



- x Patients weighing >25 to 50 kg can be given 0.3 mg by drawing up 0.3 mL of the 1 mg/mL solution.
- x Patients who weigh >50 kg can be given 0.5 mg by drawing up 0.5 mL of the 1 mg/mL solution.

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS ON EPINEPHRINE SYRINGE PREPARATION

1. Get the 1mg/mL epinephrine ampule and open it
2. If not already attached, attach the 22G-25G (gauge may vary based on what is available at your duty station) 1 ½ inch needle to the 1 mL syringe
3. Draw the epinephrine to the desired volume (as above) and ensure no air bubbles
4. Administer the dose in the mid- anterior lateral thigh (can be given with or without clothes on).
5. Repeat dosing if necessary, in the opposite side

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES