



AN RIALTÓIR CÓGASÍOCHTA
THE PHARMACY REGULATOR

Programme Specification for Responding to an Emergency Situation, Including the Management of Anaphylaxis Training Course

Version 1.1

Version 1.0 Approved by PSI Council on 03.12.2015

Part One

Generic Interim Accreditation Standards

[The Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland](#)¹ apply to educational programmes for the Responding to an Emergency Situation, Including the Management of Anaphylaxis Training Course. These generic standards should be referred to when accrediting the associated education and training programme(s).

Part Two

Indicative Desired Programme Content and Deliverables

The aim of the training is to enable pharmacists to, competently and safely:

- Respond to, and prepare for, an emergency in the pharmacy setting
- Perform relevant diagnoses on patients in order to administer the correct medicine in an emergency situation
- Treat a patient (post drug administration) who is suffering from an adverse reaction or delayed adverse reactions
- Diagnose and treat anaphylaxis in both adults and children
- Supply and administer adrenaline to both adults and children in emergency situations

It is recommended that the learning objectives be achieved through an on-line learning format. Pharmacists must meet the relevant training requirements as specified by the PSI Council.

The following indicative learning objectives are a general guide for training providers to an appropriate scope of the curriculum content for this programme.

The Learning Objectives have been broadly divided into the following 3 key areas:

Key Area 1: Responding to an Emergency Situation and Preparing the Pharmacy for Emergency Response

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Outline the professional role of the pharmacist, and the legal, regulatory, and liability issues involved in providing assistance in an emergency situation in line with the provisions of SI 449/2015
- Describe the process for undertaking relevant differential diagnosis and treatment of a patient presenting in an emergency situation, for example using interactive scenarios.
- Give details of the agencies and health care professionals involved in emergency care provision and onward referral (being able to clearly articulate the patient journey and follow up needed)
- Outline the following in the context of responding to an emergency:

¹ Revised version approved by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 26 June 2012.

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- Staff referral and communication including training on the presentation of patients in emergency situations
- Consent as described in SI 449
- Storage of the relevant emergency medicines, particular to the supply and administration in the emergency treatment of a patient
- Documentation and record-keeping requirements
- Outline how a pharmacy site is prepared for providing emergency care under the remit of SI 449/2015 including:
 - Understanding PSI guidance for pharmacists on the Safe Supply and Administration of Prescription Only Medicines for the Purposes of Saving Life or Reducing Severe Distress in an Emergency
 - Plans for performing appropriate on site 'dummy runs' and superintendent pharmacist/supervising pharmacist approval or 'sign-off'
 - Understanding of occupational health and safety issues
 - Development of written policies and procedures relevant to responding to an emergency situation.

Key Area 2: Managing Adverse Reactions

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Outline how to correctly treat a patient (post drug administration) who is suffering from an adverse reaction or delayed adverse reactions
- Outline how to report adverse reactions to the appropriate bodies (e.g. HPRA)
- Outline the in-house processes in the pharmacy for referral of patients and communication with other healthcare professionals involved in the patient's care

Key Area 3: Principles of Anaphylaxis in Adults and Children

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Discuss anaphylaxis (including allergy), and mechanism of response
- Explain how to recognise signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis
- Discuss the causes of anaphylactic and anaphylactoid reactions to include allergen exposure and the identification of high risk groups, precautionary methods and management of the patient (to include long term care and allergy care plans)
- Detail the procedure to assess patients, giving a diagnosis (and explain the relevant differential diagnoses)
- Explain the mechanism of action, dose, cautions, side effects and routes of administration of adrenaline products available

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- Describe the treatment of anaphylaxis (in adults and children) with adrenaline according to national policy, guidelines and agencies
- Briefly describe, for both adults and children, other treatments of allergy and their use in an anaphylactic situation

Key Area 4: Supply and Administration of Adrenaline to both Adults and Children in an Emergency Situation

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

Supply

- Explain the storage of adrenaline products for use in an emergency
- Discuss the duty to determine whether it is appropriate to supply – identification of factors constituting an emergency
- Identify the relevant persons to be notified of the supply
- Identify the key principles in the provision of patient education on anaphylaxis and the treatment of this with adrenaline

Pre-injection

- State the methods employed to ascertain critical patient information e.g. if a child presents, determine the age so the appropriate dose can be selected
- State the methods employed to determine name of patient and trigger for anaphylaxis (and removal of said trigger if possible)
- Explain how to ensure patient comfort and safety
- Outline each step to be undertaken in the management of the relevant emergency situation

Administration

- Explain how the appropriate dose of adrenaline is selected
- Describe the correct positioning of the patient
- Compare and contrast the range of injections/trainer pens/ampoules available on the Irish market
- Give an account of how patient is monitored for response and treated as appropriate (including further injection)
- Demonstrate knowledge in identifying the correct dose and selecting the anterolateral aspect of the thigh for intramuscular injection and subcutaneously

Post-injection

- Describe the system in place to record/document the diagnosis and treatment of anaphylaxis and the supply and administration of adrenaline
- Describe the process of referral of the patient to another regulated health professional for additional care as needed
- Specify the requirement to notify other health providers (including the patient's usual prescriber) and agencies with appropriate details as required (including information on adverse drug reactions)
- Briefly explain the steps following adrenaline injection, to be explained to the patient including; hospital management, blood tests, referral to an allergy specialist; and outline the steps required to follow up on the patient after the event
- Reflect on the delivery of the service and obtain feedback to ensure continuous quality improvement
- Outline the key principles in the provision of patient education in long term management of anaphylaxis

References

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3. Anaphylaxis Ireland www.anaphylaxisireland.ie/
4. Health Service Executive Anaphylaxis; Treatment in the Community (part of the guidelines for immunisation training). August 2015
Available from: www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/Anaphylaxis.pdf
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Acknowledgements

The following regulators and professional bodies have been consulted:

- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Alberta College of Pharmacists
- Alberta Pharmacists' Association
- Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand
- Pharmacy Council of New Zealand
- American Pharmacists' Association
- College of Pharmacists of British Columbia
- Canadian Council for Continuing Education in Pharmacy
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Pharmacy Board of Australia
- Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
- National Association of Pharmacy Boards