

ALLERGY

POLICY

Riverlink Interchange Incorporated (Riverlink) recognises that some individual Participants may have an allergy which, in some cases, could be potentially life-threatening. Riverlink acknowledges the need to minimise the risk of triggering an allergic reaction.

Riverlink requires that information about any known allergy of a Participant is made available to the organisation, including information about its severity.

Riverlink does not permit either Participants or support staff to bring foodstuffs containing peanuts or peanut related products to any Riverlink activities.

DEFINITIONS

Allergy

A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food or drug). Also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen

A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

EpiPen

Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Administration of Medication Agreement

A detailed document outlining an individual participant's' medication treatment including dosage, time of administration and method of administration.

PROCEDURES

Carers are responsible for providing ongoing accurate and current medical information in writing to Riverlink.

Where a Participant has any known allergies, Carers must complete an "Allergy Notification Form". This can be at the time of assessment/review or whenever such an allergy is discovered. At group activities, forms are updated prior to each respite occasion and signed by the Carer.

Responsibilities

Where a Participant has a protocol in place for response to an allergic reaction which includes the administration of required medication, this must be included on the "Administration of Medication Agreement" form completed by the Carer.

Carers are to supply any precautionary medication which is required. Riverlink's Medication policy (Ref: 2.17) is to be followed in the administration of any medication associated with an allergic reaction. Riverlink's Medication policy (Ref: 2.17) supports the administration of an EpiPen for anaphylactic shock.

Support Workers are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information of the Participant being supported.

- 1) Participant medical conditions and allergies are included in the Participant profile available to each Support Worker prior to beginning their shift.
- 2) Where Participants with known allergies are participating in camps and/or activities, the Participant profiles for those camps and activities include information about the Participant's individual allergy. Furthermore, the organisation prior to each camp must ensure there are Support Workers trained in the use of the EpiPen and capable of managing an anaphylaxis reaction.
- 3) The Service Coordinator will ensure that appropriate information about any Participant with a known allergy, is included in the Provision of Service documentation for individual shifts prior to the commencement of each shift. For group activities allergy information is given in the Activity Folder provided on the day.

EpiPens

Where an EpiPen (Adrenalin) is required in the health plan:

- 1) Carers are responsible for provision of the EpiPens.
- 2) The EpiPen is located securely and is to be clearly labelled with the Participant's name. Support Workers need to be made aware of the location of the EpiPen or it needs to be given to the Support Worker supporting that Participant.

- 3) Riverlink will ensure EpiPen training is part of the compulsory First Aid training for staff and that records of such training is maintained.

Related Forms:

Allergy Notification Form

Medication Advice

Administration of Medication Agreement

Related Policies:

2.04 Consumer Information

2.14 Privacy, Dignity & Confidentiality

2.17 Medication

Relevant Standards:

NSW Disability Service Standards:

Standard 1: Rights

Standard 2: Participation

Standard 5: Service Access

Standard 6: Service Management

National Disability Service Standards 2013:

Standard 1: Rights

Standard 2: Participation

Standard 5: Service Access

Standard 6: Service Management

Children's Standards in Action:

Standard 10; Protection of Human Rights and Freedom from Abuse

Legislation:

Disability Services Act (NSW) 1993

Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW)

Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)

Privacy Code of Practice (General) 2003

Public Health Act 1991 (NSW)

ADHC Policies (*)

Client Risk Policy and Procedures Apr 2012

Health Care Policy and Procedures Apr 2012



Ray Palmer

Executive Officer

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