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## Overview

This standard is about providing immunotherapy - desensitisation therapy – as treatment to reduce the individual's response to a specific allergen. In the United Kingdom, immunotherapy is used as a treatment option in selected individuals with a proven immunoglobulin E (IgE) mediated allergy where avoidance in daily life is not possible. It must be carried out in specialist centres by a team trained in current immunotherapy practice. Due to the risk of a severe allergy reaction, subcutaneous immunotherapy should only be performed in a centre with full resuscitation facilities in the presence of a practitioner with a current resuscitation qualification. The process requires the individual's full knowledge and commitment for it to be effective.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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## Provide immunotherapy

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 the principles of valid consent, and how to obtain valid consent from individuals
- P2 information on local and national patient support organisations
- P3 reliable evidence based and unbiased information and educational resources about allergy
- P4 ensure you have a team immediately available who are fully trained in immunotherapy
- P5 confirm the individual's diagnosis, their suitability and that their condition warrants immunotherapy
- P6 identify the relevant allergen, the route of immunotherapy and the immunotherapy preparation
- P7 give clear, full verbal and written information to the individual about the treatment and process and its risks, what they can expect from it, assess their commitment to the programme and gain their valid written consent
- P8 give the individual time and opportunity to ask questions at all times during the therapy period and be accessible to the patient throughout the course of their therapy
- P9 check that there are no contra-indications against immunotherapy and that the individual has no infection, no other illness nor large, local or systemic reactions to the previous dose
- P10 provide a clean and safe environment with resuscitation equipment and medication readily available
- P11 take standard precautions for infection prevention and control
- P12 carry out baseline observations, conduct immunotherapy monitor the individual and conduct continuing observations according to protocol and guidelines
- P13 ensure the individual's safety at all times in selecting and checking the next dose of the immunotherapy prior to administration
- P14 recognise and treat reactions as they occur and engage the help required to manage those symptoms as needed
- P15 document and record immediate and delayed reactions to the therapy and take this into consideration when deciding the next dose
- P16 ensure the individual remains under supervision for a specified time following administration of the therapy
- P17 advise the individual on care and comfort after the therapy session
- P18 ensure the individual is well enough to be leave
- P19 ensure the individual knows how to access an available, named member of the clinical team for help and advice
- P20 provide the individual with information on allergy related immunotherapy

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 common allergic conditions and their presentation
- K2 common allergic conditions and their manifestations in multiple organ systems
- K3 severe allergic conditions, their development and risks
- K4 current guidelines on allergy diagnosis and management
- K5 causes of anaphylaxis
- K6 symptoms and features of anaphylaxis/acute allergic reaction and how to monitor them
- K7 how to recognise a severe allergic reaction
- K8 how to manage an acute allergic reaction
- K9 resuscitation techniques and guidelines
- K10 how to correctly administer
  - K10.1 antihistamine and adrenaline in an emergency setting according to age/weight
  - K10.2 oxygen
  - K10.3 nebulised beta 2 agonist
- K11 treatment according to the severity of the reaction
- K12 how to measure and record pulse, respiratory rate and blood pressure
- K13 how to measure conscious level
- K14 the range of validated tests and investigations to perform during and after anaphylaxis
- K15 the pharmacological management of allergic disease
- K16 the evidence for efficacy of immunotherapy
- K17 up to date knowledge on recent developments and procedures in immunotherapy
- K18 the criteria for suitability of an individual for immunotherapy
- K19 how to balance the risks against benefits of undertaking immunotherapy
- K20 guidelines and protocols on immunotherapy
- K21 the pharmacology of immunotherapy
- K22 a working knowledge of standard precautions for infection control policy and practice
- K23 the principles of valid consent, and how to obtain valid consent from individuals
- K24 information on local and national patient support organisations
- K25 reliable evidence based and unbiased information and educational resources about allergy

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### Additional Information

#### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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