

SFHAL5

Diagnose an individual's severe and potentially severe, complex, multi system allergies



Overview

This standard is about diagnosing severe and potentially severe, complex, multi system and co-morbid allergies, for example, drug reactions or anaesthetic allergy. It is performed in specialised allergy services. It involves expert investigation and evaluation of the individual's whole allergy profile and includes the assessment of the range and extent of allergy within an individual.

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

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 consider the information in the individual's referral letter
- P2 listen carefully to the individual's concerns, observations and views
- P3 find out from a detailed allergy history the nature, frequency, onset, pattern and severity of the individual's symptoms and other illnesses they may have
- P4 find out what the individual or other practitioners may have done to alleviate the symptoms and the effectiveness of those measures
- P5 determine whether the individual is exposed to known or potential triggers
- P6 identify the extent to which lifestyle, emotions, occupation and/or stress may play a part in the individual's symptoms
- P7 identify all likely allergic and co-morbid conditions and the way in which allergy has progressed or is progressing
- P8 consider the results of all relevant skin-prick and blood tests performed
- P9 identify tests to offer the individual as a means of confirming the diagnosis of allergy to the suspected substances
- P10 form a diagnosis consistent with current best practice guidelines and emerging findings and evidence
- P11 explain how allergy is causing the patient's symptoms and/or delineate any other contributory factors and deal with any remaining uncertainties
- P12 refer the individual to other members of the multidisciplinary team who can provide on-going help, advice or support
- P13 assess risks associated with the allergy and its treatment and give advice or ensure the individual receives advice on these
- P14 give the individual advice on allergen avoidance informed by current best practice or discuss negative results
- P15 refer the individual for immunotherapy where it is indicated
- P16 consult colleagues, expert or research sources in cases that are unusual, uncommonly complex or difficult to resolve
- P17 give verbal and written information about the allergies
- P18 provide information on relevant patient support organisations and reliable, unbiased sources of information

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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 the influence of an individual's environment on allergy
- K4 the impact of allergy on morbidity and mortality
- K5 conditions that can coexist in allergy and the way in which they affect or are affected by allergy
- K6 complex allergic conditions, their development and their manifestations in multiple organ systems
- K7 acute severe allergic conditions, their development and risks
- K8 assessing risks for complex, interacting allergies and exposure to allergens
- K9 current guidelines on allergy diagnosis and management
- K10 knowledge of recent developments in the diagnosis and management of allergic conditions
- K11 use and availability of diagnostic tests
- K12 how to distinguish allergy symptoms from other conditions with a similar presentation
- K13 evidence based decision making based on current guidelines on disease diagnosis and management
- K14 guidance and other literature on mild, moderate and severe allergic reactions and strategies for managing them
- K15 current prescribing and treatment guidelines for allergic conditions with co-morbidities
- K16 pharmacological management of allergic disease
- K17 immunotherapy
- K18 new treatment as it arises
- K19 local availability of services
- K20 information on organisations for patients
- K21 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: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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Developed by	Skills for Health
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