

# Anaphylaxis algorithm

#### **Anaphylactic reaction?**

# Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, Exposure

#### Diagnosis - look for:

- Acute onset of illness
- Life-threatening Airway and/or Breathing and/or Circulation problems
- And usually skin changes
  - Call for help
  - Lie patient flat
  - Raise patient's legs

## Adrenaline<sup>2</sup>

### When skills and equipment available:

- Establish airway
- High flow oxygen
- IV fluid challenge<sup>3</sup>
- Chlorphenamine
- Hydrocortisone

#### **Monitor:**

- Pulse oximetry
- ECG
- Blood pressure

#### 1 Life-threatening problems:

**Airway:** swelling, hoarseness, stridor

**Breathing:** rapid breathing, wheeze, fatigue, cyanosis, SpO<sub>2</sub> < 92%, confusion

Circulation: pale, clammy, low blood pressure, faintness, drowsy/coma

# **2 Adrenaline** (give IM unless experienced with IV adrenaline) IM doses of 1:1000 adrenaline (repeat after 5 min if no better)

• Adult 500 micrograms IM (0.5 mL)

• Child more than 12 years: 500 micrograms IM (0.5 mL)

• Child 6 -12 years: 300 micrograms IM (0.3 mL)

Adrenaline IV to be given only by experienced specialists

Titrate: Adults 50 micrograms; Children 1 microgram/kg

#### <sup>3</sup> IV fluid challenge:

Adult - 500 – 1000 mL Child - crystalloid 20 mL/kg

Stop IV colloid

if this might be the cause of anaphylaxis

# ; Children 1 microgram/kg

150 micrograms IM (0.15 mL)

4 Chlorphenamine
(IM or slow IV)
10 mg
5 mg
2.5 mg

250 micrograms/kg

5 Hydrocortisone (IM or slow IV) 200 mg 100 mg 50 mg 25 mg

Child 6 - 12 years
Child 6 months to 6 years
Child less than 6 months

See also:

Adult or child more than 12 years

Child less than 6 years:

► Anaphylactic reactions – Initial treatment