#### THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY PROTOCOLS

#### Anaphylaxis (Adult)

# **CFR AND ALL PROVIDER LEVELS**

- 1. ABCs.
- 2. Airway management.
- 3. Administer oxygen.
- 4. Assess cardiac and respiratory status:
  - a. If either is abnormal (e.g. severe respiratory distress or shock):
    - i. Assist the patient with administration of prescribed Epinephrine auto-injector.
    - ii. If Epinephrine has not been prescribed, administer Epinephrine via auto-injector. (for CFR: Only if available and trained to do so.)
    - iii. NOTE: Patients weighing more than 30 kg (66 lbs), use adult Epi-auto injector (0.3 mg); patients weighing less than 30 kg (66 lbs) use pediatric Epi-auto injector (0.15 mg).
- 5. Refer immediately to the Respiratory Distress / Failure / Acute Pulmonary Edema (Adult), Obstructed Airway (Adult), or Shock / Sepsis (Adult) protocols as appropriate.
- 6. If cardiac arrest occurs, refer immediately to the General Cardiac Arrest Care (Non-Traumatic) (Adult) protocol.

#### CFR STOP

## **EMT**

- 7. Request ALS assistance.
  - a. Do not delay transport for any reason, including waiting for a potential second dose of epinephrine.
- 8. Assess cardiac and respiratory status:
  - a. If both are normal, initiate transport.
  - b. If either is abnormal (e.g. severe respiratory distress or shock):
    - . Administer Epinephrine as directed above. (Epinephrine may be administered IM using a syringe, if trained and approved by the agency medical director to do so.)
- 9. Initiate transport if not previously done.
- 10. Contact Online Medical Control for authorization to administer a second dose of Epinephrine IM, if needed and if available.
- 11. For wheezing, administer Albuterol Sulfate 0.083%, one (1) unit dose or 3 ml via nebulizer at a flow rate that will deliver the solution over 5 minutes to 15 minutes.
  - a. If symptoms persist, Albuterol Sulfate 0.083%, one (1) unit dose or 3 ml via nebulizer at a flow rate that will deliver the solution over 5 minutes to 15 minutes, may be repeated twice for a total of three (3) doses.

# EMT STOP

#### **Paramedic**

- 12. If the patient is exhibiting airway compromise:
  - a. Perform Advanced Airway Management.
  - b. Consider procedural sedation options, if appropriate. (see GOP: Prehospital Sedation.)

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## 13. For patients with signs of shock OR history of anaphylaxis:

- a. If not already given, administer Epinephrine 0.3 mg (0.3 ml of a 1:1,000 solution / 1 mg/ml), IM.
- b. Intravascular access.
- c. Crystalloid fluid, up to 3 liters, via a macro-drip.

## 14. For patients with NO Signs of shock, and who do not have a history of anaphylaxis:

- a. Intravascular access.
- 15. Administer ONE of the following:
  - a. Methylprednisolone 125 mg IV, slowly over 2 minutes.
    OR
  - b. Dexamethasone, 12 mg IV, slowly over 2 minutes.
- 16. Administer Diphenhydramine\* 50 mg IV/IM.
- 17. Administer Ipratropium Bromide 0.02% (1-unit dose of 2.5 ml), by nebulizer, in conjunction with the first three (3) doses of Albuterol Sulfate.
- 18. Monitor vital signs every 5 minutes.
- 19. Begin cardiac monitoring.

# Paramedic STOP

## **Medical Control Options**

#### 1. **EMT**:

- a. Administration of a second dose of Epinephrine IM, if needed and if available.
  - i. Patients weighing more than 30 kg (66 lbs), use adult Epinephrine (0.3 mg) IM.
  - ii. Patients weighing less than 30 kg (66 lbs) use pediatric Epinephrine (0.15 mg) IM.

### 2. Paramedic:

- a. Repeat any of the above Standing Orders.
- b. For patients who remain in shock after the administration of crystalloid bolus, either by clinical symptoms or by persistent hypotension (mean arterial pressure less than 65 mmHg), see the Shock / Sepsis (Adult) protocol Medical Control Options for vasopressors.

#### **Key Points / Considerations**

- 1. Do not delay transport to the hospital.
- 2. Anaphylaxis can be a potentially life-threatening situation most often associated with a history of exposure to:
  - a. An inciting agent/allergen (bee sting or other insect venom)
  - b. Medications/drugs
  - c. Foods such as peanuts, seafood, etc
- 3. Patients with an allergic reaction and signs of bronchospasm may require treatment for anaphylaxis.
- 4. Albuterol Sulfate and Ipratropium Bromide shall be mixed and administered simultaneously, for a maximum of three doses.
- 5. CFR administration of epinephrine via auto-injector must be reported to your agency's medical director as soon as possible.

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- 6. The presence of any of the following symptoms characterizes the clinical findings that authorize and require treatment according to this protocol:
  - a. Respiratory distress:
    - i. Upper airway obstruction (Stridor)
    - ii. Severe bronchospasm (wheezing)
  - b. Cardiovascular collapse / hypotensive shock.

# 7. \*Drug Advisories:

a. **Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride** – has an atropine-like action and must be used with caution in patients with a history of increased intraocular pressure, hyperthyroidism, cardiovascular disease, and/or hypotension.

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