

Perioperative Anaphylaxis Management

Key Point

- The Treatment Algorithm used across all FHFT sites is the 2023 RCUK Perioperative Guideline available on EPIC and below

Version: 2.0

Date Issued: 07/06/2024

Review Date: 01/05/2027

Key words: Anaphylaxis, Anaesthesia, Allergy, Referral to Allergy Clinic

This is a controlled document. If you are using a printed copy, check it against the guidelines site to ensure you are using the latest edition.

Print copies must be destroyed after use.

Contents

1. Definition and Classification	2
2. Acute Management	2
Proceed/Cancel/Postpone Surgery.....	3
3. Investigation, Correspondence, Referrals and Reporting	3
Investigation	3
Correspondence	3
Referrals	3
Reporting	3
4. Anaphylaxis boxes	4
5. Where to refer adults and children	4
6. Useful Websites.....	5
Full version control record	6

1. Definition and Classification

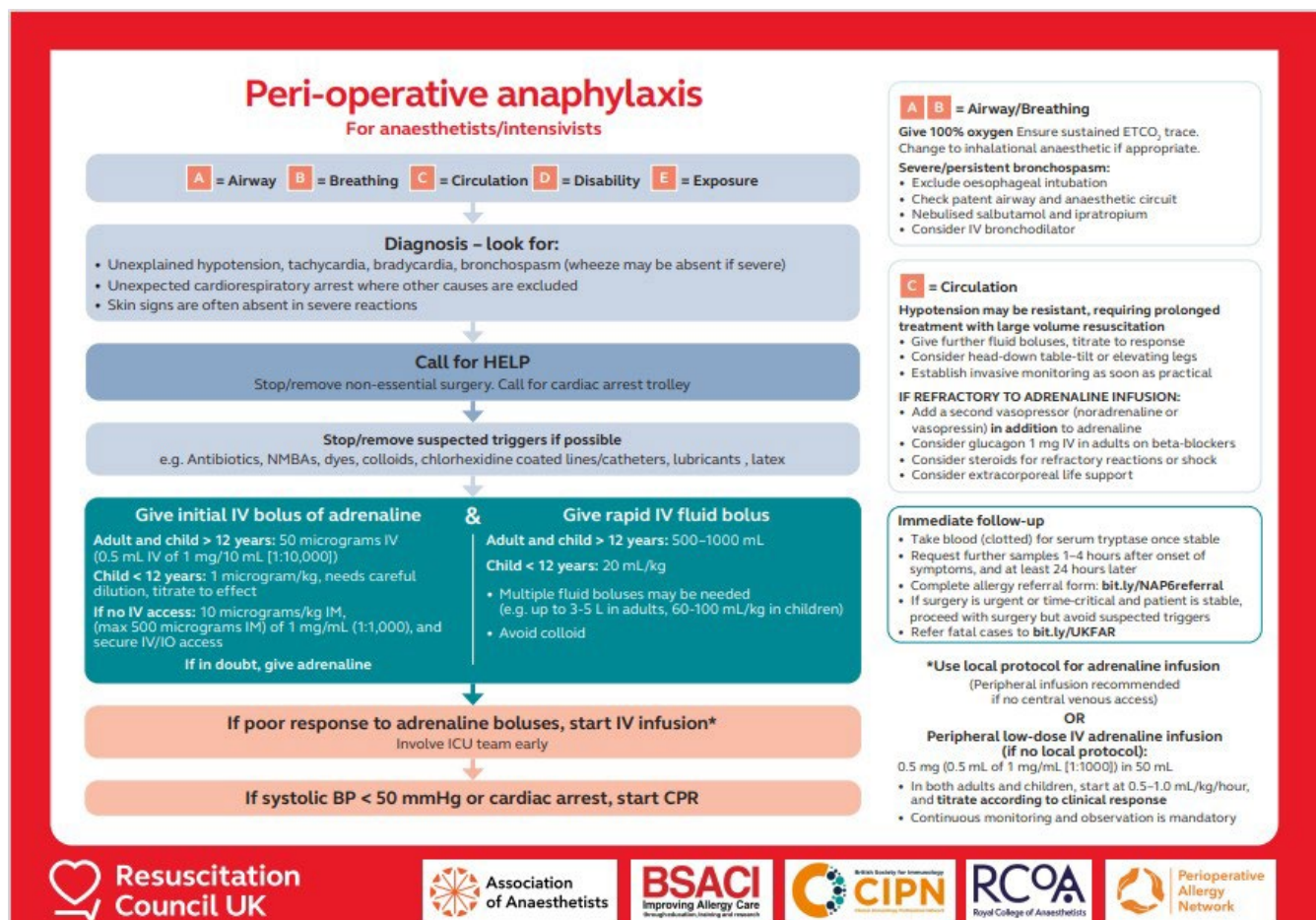
Anaphylaxis is a severe life-threatening generalised or systemic hypersensitivity reaction. The severity-grading of hypersensitivity reactions depends on signs and symptoms outlined below. Only Grade 3, 4 and 5 hypersensitivity can correctly be termed anaphylaxis.

Grade	Summary	Specific signs and symptoms
Grade 1	Generalised mucocutaneous signs	Erythema Urticaria Angioedema
Grade 2	Multi-organ manifestations	Mucocutaneous signs Bronchospasm Hypotension
Grade 3	Severe life threatening multi-organ manifestations	Arrhythmia Cardiovascular collapse Bronchospasm Can have cutaneous signs
Grade 4	Cardiopulmonary arrest	Cardiac arrest

Figure 1: Grading of anaphylaxis, adapted from the Ring and Messmer grading scale⁷

2. Acute Management

The management guidelines presuppose that the patient is in the care of an appropriately trained anaesthetist and full resuscitation facilities and appropriate vital signs monitors are available. The guidelines below are the 2023 RCUK/Association of Anaesthetists guidelines and are available on EPIC in the Emergency Guidelines. Adrenalin is easily available in the red cardiac arrest bags available in all anaesthetic rooms/ theatres. Glucagon/vasopressin available from ITU or recovery in Heatherwood.



Proceed/Cancel/Postpone Surgery

The decision to proceed or abandon surgery will be determined by the urgency of the surgery, the grade of anaphylaxis and the patient's underlying comorbidities. Discussion of the situation with the surgeon, other anaesthetic colleagues or intensive care specialists may assist with clarifying the risks and benefits of proceeding or postponing. In some situations, it is necessary to proceed with surgery to facilitate resuscitation despite some persistent instability related to the anaphylaxis. As a general rule, it should be safe to proceed with surgery with Grade 1 or 2 reactions.

3. Investigation, Correspondence, Referrals and Reporting

Investigation

All patients with a suspected anaphylaxis reaction should have;

- 3 serum tryptase samples immediately once patient stable, then repeated at 1-2 and 24 hrs.
- Take in separate gold top bottles. No other tests requested as immunochemistry which is sent to St Peter's. Suggested handed to lab with clear explanation.

Correspondence

A NAP6 patient/duty of candour letter (found on EPIC/Post Op/Correspondence) should be completed and ideally be given to the patient before discharge or sent later by post and a copy sent to the GP explaining they have had a suspected anaphylactic reaction.

Referrals

Involve the **anaphylaxis lead** at the earliest opportunity who will assist with referrals.

Ideally refer adults locally via EPIC to Dr Roa at Frimley Park Hospital. Alternatively, they and children can be referred to other centres outlined below (6).

Details required by the Allergy Clinic include:

- **A completed NAP6 Anaesthetic Referral Form** (EPIC/Post op/Correspondence)
- **A photocopy of the anaesthetic record and drug chart** (not required if referring to Dr Roa)

The completed NAP6 Anaesthetic Referral Form, available on EPIC (Post op/Correspondence) should be saved in notes, letters or media.

Reporting

- **Anaphylaxis lead notified at first opportunity**
- **In-Phase incident reporting system**
- **MHRA** completed after testing results confirmed via internet site
<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

4. Anaphylaxis boxes

Anaphylaxis boxes are available in dedicated areas within the theatre suites at **Wexham Park** and **Heatherwood** Hospitals. The box contains drugs for immediate treatment of anaphylaxis, laminated treatment sheets, diagnostic guidelines and advice for referral to an Allergy Clinic.

At **Frimley Park** the RCUK/AAGBI 2023 guidelines are available on EPIC and emergency drug bags will be available in all theatres or where anaesthesia is administered.

5. Where to refer adults and children

Referral locally for adults

Consultant, Frimley Park Hospital – refer via Epic.

Alternatively for adults

Allergy Consultant
Royal Surrey County Hospital
Edgerton Road Guildford GU2 7XX
Phone 01483 571122/ ext 2323
Fax 01483 464072

Consultant Immunologist
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headley Way
Headington
Oxford
OX3 9DU
01865 743165

Consultant Allergist
Department of Allergy
2nd Floor, Bermondsey Wing
Guy's Hospital
London
SE1 9RT

Referral for children

Department of Allergy
2nd Floor, Bermondsey Wing
Guy's Hospital
London
SE1 9RT
020 7188 5844

Immunology Department
Southampton Children's Hospital
Tremona Road
Southampton
SO16 6YD
Phone 023 8077 7222

For record keeping and audit, please send an email to Dr Eva Watson (HW/WP) or Dr Ashley Latham (FP) stating the name of the patient, hospital number, date of birth and date of reaction.

6. Useful Websites

All forms (including NAP6 form) are available on this site or on EPIC

<https://www.nationalauditprojects.org.uk/NAP6home>

The 6th National Audit Project

[Emergency treatment of peri-operative anaphylaxis: Resuscitation Council UK algorithm for anaesthetists \(wiley.com\)](#) Anaesthesia 2024, 79, 535–541 2023

[Guidance: Anaphylaxis | Resuscitation Council UK](#)

[2526 AAP RCUK periop anaphylaxis-8C.pdf \(resus.org.uk\)](#)

Full version control record

Version:	2.0
Guidelines Lead(s):	Dr Eva Watson, Associate Specialist WPH Dr Ashley Latham, Associate Specialist FPH
Contributor(s):	
Lead Director / Chief of Service:	Dr Subodh Tote, CoS for Anaesthetics, Theatres and Critical Care
Library check completed:	05/09/2023
Ratified at:	Anaesthesia Clinical Governance Committee 15/5/24
Date Issued:	07/06/2024
Review Date:	01/05/2027
Pharmaceutical dosing advice and formulary compliance checked by:	Katherine Lee 21/05/2024
Key words:	Anaphylaxis, Anaesthesia, Allergy, Referral to Allergy Clinic

This guideline has been registered with the Trust. However, clinical guidelines are guidelines only. The interpretation and application of clinical guidelines will remain the responsibility of the individual clinician. If in doubt, contact a senior colleague or expert. Caution is advised when using guidelines after the review date.

This guideline is for use in Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust hospitals only. Any use outside this location will not be supported by the Trust and will be at the risk of the individual using it.

Version History

Version	Date	Guideline Lead(s)	Status	Comment
1.0	Jan 2021	Policy & Guidelines Manager	Final	Ratified at Anaesthetics Clinical Governance meeting
2.0	April 2024	Dr A Latham, Dr E Watson	Final	Scheduled review. Incorporate changes post Epic go-live.

Related Documents

None