



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES PROGRAM

Protocol No. M2-P  
Reviewed January 2008

### Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: ACUTE ALLERGIC REACTION

**I. BLS Treatment Protocol:**

- A. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
- B. Prepare for transport / transfer of care.

**II. ALS Treatment Protocol:**

- A. Mild Reaction
  1. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
  2. Transport.
  3. Contact Base Station.
- B. Moderate to Severe Reaction (urticaria, itching, raised welts, swelling of mucous membranes of the mouth or eyes, and/or respiratory distress)
  1. Treat life threats. (See Policy 4000)
  2. Transport.
  3. Epinephrine 0.01 mg/kg of 1:1000 IM. May repeat x2, to a maximum of 0.3 ml.
  4. Benadryl 1mg/kg IM/IV/IO to a maximum of 50 mg.
  5. If symptomatic hypotension, administer 20 cc/kg fluid bolus.
  6. If Bronchospasm or wheezes are present:  
Albuterol 2.5mg via nebulizer, may repeat X3 q 10 minutes. If heart rate > 180 bpm withhold treatment and contact Base Station.
  7. Contact Base Station for further orders.
  8. In cases of anaphylactic shock: Epinephrine 0.01 mg/kg slow IVP/IO at no more than 0.1mg/minute. Use epinephrine 1:10,000 only. **This order is by Base Station MD only.**

Note: The #1 cause of sudden death from severe anaphylaxis is upper airway obstruction secondary to laryngeal edema. Aggressive treatment and airway management is critical in these instances.