

OFFICE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

UNITED STATES CAPITOL

WASHINGTON, DC

STANDARD PROTOCOL FOR  
GRADING AND MANAGEMENT OF REACTIONS  
FOLLOWING ALLERGY INJECTIONS

I. PURPOSE: The specific purpose of this protocol is to describe the grading of reactions following allergy injections and describe the management of the patient during or following a reaction.

II. GENERAL:

A. Reactions following an allergy injections should be graded and managed as follows:

GRADING AND MANAGEMENT OF REACTIONS:

- (1) Negative (swelling to 15 mm; ie., dime size) - progress according to schedule.
- (2) "A" (swelling 15-20 mm; ie., dime to nickel size) - repeat the same dosage.
- (3) "B" (swelling 20-25 mm; ie., nickel to quarter size) - return to the last dosage which caused no reaction.
- (4) "C" (swelling persisting more than 12 hours or over 25 mm; ie., quarter size or larger) - decrease dosage by 50%.
- (5) Systemic reactions (hives, sneezing, generalized itching, asthma, difficulty breathing, or shock) may be controlled by immediately placing a tourniquet above the injection site and giving up to 0.01 ml/kg of 1:1000 epinephrine up to 0.50 ml every 10-20 minutes subcutaneously. **NOTIFY THE PHYSICIAN IMMEDIATELY!** For the average adult, give 0.10 ml of 1:1000 epinephrine subcutaneously in the injection site and 0.20 ml of 1:1000 epinephrine in the other arm. Generally, the allergen extract dose is reduced to 1/3 of the last dosage that caused no systemic reaction and repeated 3 times before increasing the dose. If the injections cause repeated reactions or are suspected of causing delayed symptoms repeatedly, or if reactions prevent progression of treatment, please contact the private physician for further instructions.

B. Breaks in therapy will be managed as follows:

IF THE PATIENT MISSES THE SCHEDULED INJECTIONS BY:

- Up to 7 days late, increase according to schedule.
- 8-14 days late, repeat the last dose.
- 15-21 days late, reduce dose by 25%.
- 22-28 days late, reduce dose by 50%.
- 29-42 days late, reduce dose by 75%.
- 43-56 days late, reduce dose by 90%.