

Practice Recommendations

**The minimum requirements for safe practice of
allergy investigation, education and treatment
by nurses in New Zealand**



Background

These recommendations have developed from the need for standardisation in nursing practice throughout New Zealand due to the growth of allergy investigation, education and treatment delivery. It has come to this group's attention that with this increase of allergy there is an associated limitation of resources hence forcing health professionals to develop allergy management and treatments within New Zealand with minimal supports or services. The purpose of this document is to direct nurses to the standards of Recommended Best Practice within the Australasian region.

Recommendations

1. Associate membership of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) <http://www.allergy.org.au/>

This is deemed important membership as ASCIA is recognised as being actively involved in recent research, publications and practice guidelines internationally with focus towards the Australasian region.

It is the peak professional body for immunologists/allergist in New Zealand and Australia. Immunologists of New Zealand are members of this society with immunology and allergy specialist nurses of New Zealand being associate members.

2. Professional Certificate in Allergy Nursing, University of South Australia

This certificate has been developed as a result of recommendations from ASCIA for practice in allergy nursing. The focus of this certificate is specific to the Australasian region.

3. ASCIA investigation, treatment and education documents to be the basis of practice within local areas.

Standardisation of practice for specialist allergy nurses in New Zealand.

4. Patients to be directed to Allergy New Zealand (<http://www.allergy.org.nz/>) for support and educational material.

Allergy New Zealand is a national membership-based, not-for-profit society whose primary role is to provide information, education, and support to the many thousands of New Zealanders living with allergies, including those at risk of anaphylaxis.

They also represent patient's interests particularly to government, policy makers and the media, provide information and guidance to the health, education and food sectors, and support research.

They are supported by a medical panel, which is made up of allergy specialists, nurses and dietitians of whom some of these are NZCIAG members.

This resource for allergy nurses is of value as many resources are created from ACSIA working parties with modification for the New Zealand environment. The magazine also publishes current and relevant research.

5. Access to an Allergy Support Pathway.

Nurses practicing in allergy investigation education and treatment are responsible for ensuring there is access to a medical practitioner specialised in allergy management to support practice and to refer to. Where there is no local medical practitioner specialising in allergy, nurses have the responsibility to make contact with a regional allergy medical and /or nursing specialist such as those belonging to the New Zealand Clinical Immunology and Allergy Group.