Managing anaphylaxis after vaccination

Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening emergency and needs immediate adrenaline administration.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis after vaccination

Any one of:
- difficult/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- swelling/tightness in throat
- difficulty talking/hoarse voice
- wheeze or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse
- pale and floppy (young children)

1. **Call for help**, including an ambulance if necessary. **Do not leave the person**

2. **Lie the person on their back**, or let them sit up if lying down restricts their breathing

3. **Give 1:1000 adrenaline** by intramuscular injection into the anterolateral thigh. Dose according to the person’s weight

4. **Give oxygen** by face mask at a high flow rate, if available

5. If their condition has not improved after 5 minutes, **give another dose** of 1:1000 adrenaline. Keep giving adrenaline every 5 minutes until the ambulance arrives if their condition does not improve

6. **Transfer** the person to hospital for further observation and treatment

7. **Record the incident**, including doses of adrenaline given

See the Australian Immunisation Handbook for more details.