Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens

All vaccines have the potential to cause an adverse reaction. In order to minimize adverse reactions, patients should be carefully screened for precautions and contraindications before administration. Even with careful screening, reactions may occur. These reactions can vary from trivial and inconvenient (e.g., soreness, itching) to severe and life-threatening (e.g., anaphylaxis). If reactions occur, staff should be prepared with procedures for their management. The table below describes procedures to follow if various reactions occur.

### REACTION SYMPTOMS MANAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Localized</th>
<th>Soreness, redness, itching, or swelling at the injection site</th>
<th>Apply a cold compress to the injection site. Consider giving an anesthetic (pain reliever) or antihistamine (anti-itch) medication.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slight bleeding</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous bleeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychological fright and syncope (fainting)</td>
<td>Fright before injection is given: Extreme paleness, sweating, cut of the hands and feet, nausea, headache, dizziness, weakness, visual disturbances</td>
<td>Fall, without loss of consciousness: Loss of consciousness</td>
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### Anaphylaxis

Sudden or gradual onset of generalized itching, erythema (redness), or hives; angioedema (swelling of lips, face, or throat); severe bronchospasm (wheezing); shortness of breath; abdominal cramping; or vascular collapse

### Emergency medical protocol for management of anaphylactic reactions in children and teens

1. If itching and swelling are confined to the injection site where the vaccination was given, observe patient closely for the development of generalized symptoms.
2. If symptoms are generalized, activate the emergency medical system (EMS—e.g., call 911) and notify patient’s physician. This should be done by a second person, while the primary healthcare professional assesses the airway, breathing, circulation, and level of consciousness of the patient.
3. **Drug dosing information:** The first-line and most important therapy in anaphylaxis is epinephrine. There are NO contraindications to epinephrine in the setting of anaphylaxis.

   a. **First dose (i.e., weight):** See do
   b. **Optional adrenalin (if necessary):** See do

### Table describes procedures you can follow if various reactions occur.

### Charts of medication dosages are provided for your convenience.