

## Oxygen no longer a requirement for vaccination services

### Position statement

The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) supports the Ministry's recommendation that portable oxygen is no longer a requirement for vaccination services.

### Background

IMAC has recently reviewed the evidence base for post-vaccination emergency management equipment. The New Zealand Resuscitation Council (NZRC) lists the emergency equipment required for hospital and general practices to treat a range of emergency situations. This equipment includes oxygen and associated accessories. However, oxygen is not specifically required for the management of anaphylaxis.

This will reduce barriers to providing immunisation services in community settings by removing the risks and costs associated with portable oxygen.

### Guidance to support this recommendation

**National:** NZRC have an anaphylaxis management algorithm:

<https://www.nzrc.org.nz/assets/Uploads/ANZCOR-Anaphylaxis-2019.pdf>.

The main steps are:

1. Assessment
2. Call for help
3. **Administer adrenaline**
4. Further medical care including cardiac monitoring, oxygen and IV infusions.

In non-general practice or hospital settings, the call for help would include contacting the ambulance service. NZRC have advised that for non-general practice or hospital settings, additional treatment over and above the administration of adrenaline would be able to be provided by the attending ambulance service.

<https://www.nzrc.org.nz/assets/Guidelines/Adult-ALS/guideline-11-10-nov2011.pdf> This guideline also gives oxygen lower priority and stipulates oxygen is used when skills and equipment become available.

### Key Points

- Adrenaline is the vital first line management for the treatment of an anaphylactic reaction.
- There are challenges, risks and extra costs associated with transporting oxygen in the community, and at times creating barriers to providing vaccination services.
- The ambulance service is rapidly accessible and set up to carry oxygen and other measures that would support anaphylaxis management and are always called as soon as anaphylaxis is diagnosed.

## International standards support this position

- Australia does not list oxygen as part of the emergency equipment required for vaccinators:

<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/resources/publications/preparing-an-anaphylaxis-response-kit#>

- The UK Immunisation handbook does not require oxygen for vaccination (see page 60).

<http://media.dh.gov.uk/network/211/files/2012/09/Green-Book-updated-140313.pdf>

- The resuscitation Council UK state re anaphylaxis management [FAQ question 20] there is no need for oxygen when giving immunisations outside general practice and Hospital settings,

<https://www.resus.org.uk/faqs/faqs-anaphylaxis-treatment/>

### **Bibliography:**

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April 2020, The Immunisation Advisory Centre.