

## Shared care for allergy - Glossary

For the purposes of the National Allergy Council 'Shared care for allergy' project, the following terms have been used with the following meanings:

**Allergic asthma** is asthma triggered by inhaled substances (e.g. pollen, dust mite, mould, pet dander) that the person is allergic to

**Allergic diseases/ allergic conditions** include food, insect and drug allergies (including life threatening severe reactions called anaphylaxis), asthma, allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and atopic dermatitis (eczema)

**Allergy testing** is a test using skin prick tests or blood tests that helps your doctor to confirm what substances you are allergic to

**Allergic rhinitis (also known as "hay fever")** – an inflammation of the lining of the nose caused by inhaling allergens and also by eating certain foods. Symptoms may include itching, sneezing, blocked nose, runny nose and in the case of allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, itchy and watery eyes

**Allied health professional** – a healthcare professional who is not a doctor, nurse or dentist, and includes psychologists and dietitians

**Anaphylaxis** is a potentially life threatening, severe allergic reaction and should always be treated as a medical emergency

**Atopic dermatitis (also known as eczema)** – an inflammation of the skin which is dry, reddened, swollen, itchy and sometimes weeping

**Carer** – those who care for individuals with allergic conditions including parents/guardian, families and other carers

**Clinical immunology/allergy specialist** - these medical specialties undertake general training in medicine followed by postgraduate training in immunology and allergy. They will normally have a Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) and membership of ASCIA. If they have also trained in immunopathology they will have an additional Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australia (FRCPA)

**Clinical guidelines** detail all aspects of treatment and care for a specific condition. Guidelines assist practitioners in making decisions based on available evidence and include referral guidelines

**Consumer** – people who are not currently accessing care for their allergic disease, but may do so in the future

**Dermatologist** – specialises in diagnosing, treating and preventing skin conditions

**Drug allergy** – Allergic reactions to pain killers, arthritis tablets and antibiotics are the most common drug allergies. Allergic reactions to herbal medicines are also possible. Severity ranges from mild rashes through to potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis.

**Eczema** – used interchangeably with atopic dermatitis (see **atopic dermatitis**)

**Food allergy** – an adverse reaction to foods (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, egg, soy, wheat, sesame and cow's milk) that involves the immune system

**Food allergen challenge** – a supervised food allergen challenge is a procedure where small and increasing amounts of a particular food are fed to a person while under medical supervision

**Healthcare administrator** – also known as health services managers and health care managers, direct the operation of hospitals, health systems and other types of organisations. Unlike healthcare professionals, health administrators or managers do not deal directly with patients on a day-to-day basis

**Hay fever** - used interchangeably with allergic rhinitis (see **allergic rhinitis**)

**Healthcare professional** – includes medical professionals and allied health professionals. Most types of healthcare professionals must be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency

**Model of care** broadly defines the way health services are delivered. It outlines the best practice care and services for a person, population group or patient cohort as they progress through the stages of a condition, injury or event

**My Health Record** is an online summary of your key health information. Healthcare providers involved in a patient's care can access health information such as allergies, medicines they are taking, medical conditions and test results

**Paediatrician** – a doctor who provides specialist medical care to infants, children and adolescents.

**Patients** – people who are currently accessing care for their allergic disease

**Patient centered or person centered care** - providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs and values, and ensure that patient values guide all clinical decisions and supports self management

**Primary care** – the first level of care or the entry point to the healthcare system for consumers. It includes (but is not limited to) services delivered by GPs, practice nurses,

nurse practitioners, community nurses, allied health providers, community nurses, allied health providers, Aboriginal health practitioners, pharmacists and dentists

**Protocol** is an agreed framework outlining the care that will be provided to patients in a designated area of practice

**Right care** - means the provision of optimal care over efficient care. The right care is safe, high quality and appropriate to an individual person and guided by evidence-based standards of care and referral guidelines

**Right place** - means the right care setting for a person's needs and those settings include home and the community, primary care, secondary care and tertiary care

**Right healthcare professional** – treated by a healthcare professional who has the appropriate education and training and scope of practice to deliver that care

**Right time** – the right time to receive care through locally available services where appropriate with referral guidelines guided by standards of care

**Scope of practice** is the professional role and services that an individual health practitioner is trained, qualified and competent to perform. Most professional associations or regulatory bodies have documents describing the scope of practice for the profession within Australia.

**Secondary care** – Services provided by practitioners who don't normally have first contact with a patient, such as medical specialists, intermediate between primary healthcare and that available at the tertiary facility

**Shared care** is person centred care that uses the skills and knowledge of a range of healthcare professionals who share joint responsibility with the person ensuring they receive the right care, at the right time, from the right healthcare professional(s), in the right place

**Standards of care** provide a consistent statement about the level of clinical care that a patient should be offered from a health service for a specific clinical condition

**Telehealth** is the use of telecommunication techniques for the purpose of providing telemedicine, medical education, and health education over a distance.

**Tertiary care** – Care provided in a centre that has the personnel and facilities required for specialist investigation and treatment, such as within a teaching hospital