



# Safe Care Patient Safety Alert

## Children with food allergies

There are continuing instances of meals being delivered to wards for children which contain the food to which they have an allergy. ADHB and COMPASS are undertaking a formal review of the system and processes to learn where we can improve. In the meantime it is vital that we ensure that we have strategies in place to reduce the risk of children inadvertently eating food which causes an allergic reaction. Please ensure:

### Medical staff:

On admission:

- enquire about and record any food allergy
- if the child has an Epipen at home, ensure a corresponding PRN adrenaline dose is prescribed on the inpatient medication chart

### Nursing staff

- verify and record any food allergy
- verify that adrenaline is prescribed if required
- enter allergy information into trendcare as soon as possible
- if arranging a call back meal – be clear about the food allergy (this process does not currently utilise the information in trendcare)
- if caring for a child with a food allergy, review every meal (ensure meal ticket and food provided does not contain the known food allergy) prior to delivery to the child
- identify any child with a dietary allergy at the ward safety briefing

Learning from patient safety events to continuously improve the care we deliver

## Great Catches Making the difference.

While there has been one patient safety event in which a child had a reaction to a food antigen. The Starship Clinical Excellence Governance Group would like to thank several staff who have intervened and avoided meals being served to children with known allergens.

Thank you for your diligence and also for letting us know (Datix Patient Safety System) about the event so we can make it easier in the future to get this correct