

Glossary

For the purposes of the ‘Scoping a shared care model for allergic conditions’ 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 conditions include food allergy, insect allergy and drug allergy (including life threatening severe reactions called anaphylaxis), allergic asthma, allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and atopic dermatitis (eczema)

Allergy testing is a test using skin pricks 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 health 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

Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights describes the key rights of patients and consumers when seeking or receiving health care. The Charter applies to all health settings anywhere in Australia, including public hospitals, private hospitals, general practice and other community environments

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 have also been described to herbal medicines.

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

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

HealthPathways – a web-based information portal supporting primary care clinicians with relevant and evidence-based information on the assessment and management of common clinical conditions including referral guidance

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

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

Model of care broadly defines the way health services are delivered. It outlines 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. Health care providers involved in a patients 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 - care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs and values, and ensures that patient values guide all clinical decisions and supports self management

Primary care – the first level of care or the entry point to the health care 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 efficiency of care. The right care is safe, high quality and appropriate to an individual patient and guided by evidence-based standards of care and referral guidelines

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

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

Right time – the right time to receive care determined by standards of care and clinical guidelines

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. Secondary care is between primary health care and that available at the tertiary facility

Shared care - a patient centred approach to care that uses the skills and knowledge of a range of health professionals who share joint responsibility with the patient ensuring the patient receives the right care, at the right time, from the right health 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