

Allergy Injection Information Sheet

Policy: Allergy Injections will be administered at the TCU Health Center.

Purpose: To provide safe and appropriate administration of allergy injections to current students.

Protocol:

- 1) Although the TCU Health Center does not have an allergist on staff; we will administer allergy injections as prescribed by an allergist. The referring allergist is responsible for the student's immunotherapy and for modification of dosing schedule.

- 2) Allergy Injections will be given by appointment only (No Walk-Ins). Two licensed professionals (a nurse and NP, PA, or a physician) will be on site during the administration and the waiting period that follows.

- 3) New students will need to make an initial consultation appointment with the Medical Director to receive clearance to start receiving allergy injections at the health center. Each visit for one allergy injection is \$25. The fee for multiple allergy injections at one visit is \$50. The health center can bill your student account but does not file private insurance. We can provide a receipt for those who wish to file on their own insurance, but we do not guarantee reimbursement. The TCU Student Insurance covers administration fees.

- 4) Patients are responsible for initiating the process with their allergist, downloading the Allergist's Referral Form, and filling in the top portion and giving it to their allergist. The agreement is signed by the allergist and faxed or mailed to the health center by the provider.

- 5) With each shipment of antigen, the allergist will provide doctor's orders with a schedule indicating the frequency of each injection and instructions for missed or late injections. All vials of antigen will include the patients name, concentration and antigen content, number, letter, or color to correspond with the doctor's orders and the expiration date. The office is available to receive antigens M-F 9-4:30; staff is not available evenings, weekends or during official school holidays.

- 6) Students will have an initial meeting with the medical director, which is a \$50 consultation fee, at which time the Allergist's Referral Form is reviewed, the antigen and instructions from the allergist's office are reviewed, the Patient's Agreement and Consent for Administration of Allergy Injections is signed, and the Post Injection Plan and Emergency Kit is discussed. At the initial visit, the student signs a Release of Information giving the TCU Health Center staff permission to communicate with the allergist and allergist's office.

- 7) Patients are responsible for providing their antigen; reordering antigen and taking antigen home if they are to receive allergy injections prior to returning to campus. At the student's request, the nurse can fax the student's Allergy Injection Log to the allergist's office for purpose of reordering antigen.
- 8) The health center administers allergy injections building up to maintenance dose and maintaining maintenance dosage. **We do not initiate therapy or give the first allergy injection.** We do not give allergy injections on an accelerated schedule. We do not administer insect /bee venom. We will not re-label or change labels on vials.
- 9) Patients must stay in the waiting area for 30 minutes after their injection and wait for the nurse to check their injection site prior to leaving the building. Students who fail to follow this policy will not be able to receive allergy injections at the health center
- 10) Recognizing that reactions can happen after the student leaves the clinic, all students are required to carry an Emergency Kit to all allergy appointments and keep kit with them for 24 hours following injection. The kit will minimally include an Epi-pen, a unit dose liquid antihistamine. The Epi-pen is available in the TCU pharmacy with a prescription from the allergist's office or the health center's medical director. If it is not covered by a student's prescription medication insurance, it can be billed to your student account. The liquid antihistamine is provided by the clinic.
- 11) **It is the patient's responsibility to report to the staff any reactions that occur after leaving the clinic, how long did it last, and how large the reaction was.**
- 12) If the allergist's instructions do not contain specific instructions for grading and managing local reactions, then we proceed according to these guidelines:

Grading scale and managing reactions

- 1) Swelling up to 15mm... progress according to schedule
- 2) Swelling 16-20mm... repeat the last dose
- 3) Swelling 21-25mm... return to previous well tolerated dose
- 4) Delayed or persistent > 12 hrs... communicate with allergist
- 5) Systemic reaction... no injections without consulting with the allergist and written instructions reviewed by medical director.