

Anaphylactic Shock – What To Do

Bee sting anaphylactic shock is rare and you may never see it, but if it does happen, this quick and calm procedure is essential.

- a. Ring for an ambulance or send someone to ring for an ambulance. If you are alone with the patient do the First Aid and Positioning described below then go and phone for an ambulance.
 1. Give the address of the house or apiary clearly and the grid reference if known (see below)
 2. Say it is a bee sting reaction. This will alert the paramedics to have adrenaline ready
- b. Move the patient away from the hives
- c. First Aid - scrape out the sting(s) as quickly as possible in order to stop further injection of venom
- d. Position the patient
 1. If the patient is conscious, loosen tight clothing at the waist and neck. Sit him/her on the ground leaning against a wall or tree or the side of a car. Make the patient as comfortable as possible to help their breathing. The patient may be short of breath, may feel sick or faint, and may be very frightened. Stay with the patient, talk quietly and encourage him/her to breathe in and out regularly
 2. If the patient is unconscious loosen tight clothing and place him/her on their side in the recovery position:
 - i. Tilt head back to make a good airway
 - ii. Uppermost leg across, with the knee and lower leg on the ground to support position
 - iii. Underneath arm behind the backCheck that he/she is breathing
Check that he/she has a pulse in the side of the neck
If you have help with you, send a beekeeper in a white suit out to the gate to flag down the ambulance
Do not give the patient food or drink
Do not give the patient any medication (unless EpiPen – see below)
If the patient's heart stops or breathing stops, resuscitation should be carried out by a trained first-aider.
- e. Address - you will need to be able to provide as much of the following as possible to the emergency service in the event of anaphylactic shock:
 1. Full postal address (essential) with postcode if possible
 2. Telephone number (essential)
 3. National Grid ReferenceYou should, if possible, display this information prominently at your apiaries.

- f. EpiPen – if you are accompanied by someone who carries an EpiPen they should tell you that they have an allergic reaction to bee stings and show you where they carry the EpiPen. After administering, you must call an ambulance, stating that an EpiPen has been used. (Note that in 2012 the Medicines Act was broadened to state that any lay person can administer adrenalin for the purpose of saving a life.)



The graphic is a 2x2 grid of instructional panels for EpiPen use. Each panel contains a numbered step, a text description, and an illustration. The background is yellow with green accents.

1 Form fist around **EpiPen®** and **PULL OFF BLUE SAFETY CAP.** 

2 **POSITION ORANGE END** about 10cm away from outer mid-thigh*.
* Either clothed, or unclothed, avoiding seams and pocket areas. 

3 **SWING AND JAB ORANGE TIP** into thigh at 90° angle and hold in place for 10 seconds. 

4 **REMOVE EpiPen®** Massage injection site for 10 seconds*.
*After use the orange needle cover automatically extends to cover the injection needle. 