

NICE calls for vigilance to avoid allergic reactions

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Many allergic reactions occur because staff fail to take note of clinical charts or allergy bracelets, or simply do not ask the patient if they are allergic to anything, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has said.

NICE makes this point in draft best practice guidance aimed at cutting the number of patients who experience allergic reactions.

The guidance covers assessment, documenting and sharing information between healthcare professionals, maintaining and sharing drug allergy information, non-specialist management and referral to specialist services.

Director of NICE's centre for clinical practice Mark Baker said that the number of hospital admissions for allergies is increasing, and that one fifth of patients with a known allergy will suffer serious harm.

Professor Baker added: 'This draft guidance urges all healthcare professionals to be alert of the possibility of allergies when administering drugs, and provides recommendations on how to properly take heed of them, so that people can be spared from further harm.'

The NHS is gathering the views of healthcare professionals and other stakeholders in a consultation before finalising the guidance.

To give your views in the consultation, which runs until May 16, go to:
guidance.nice.org.uk/CG/Wave0/610/Consultation/Latest

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