



History:

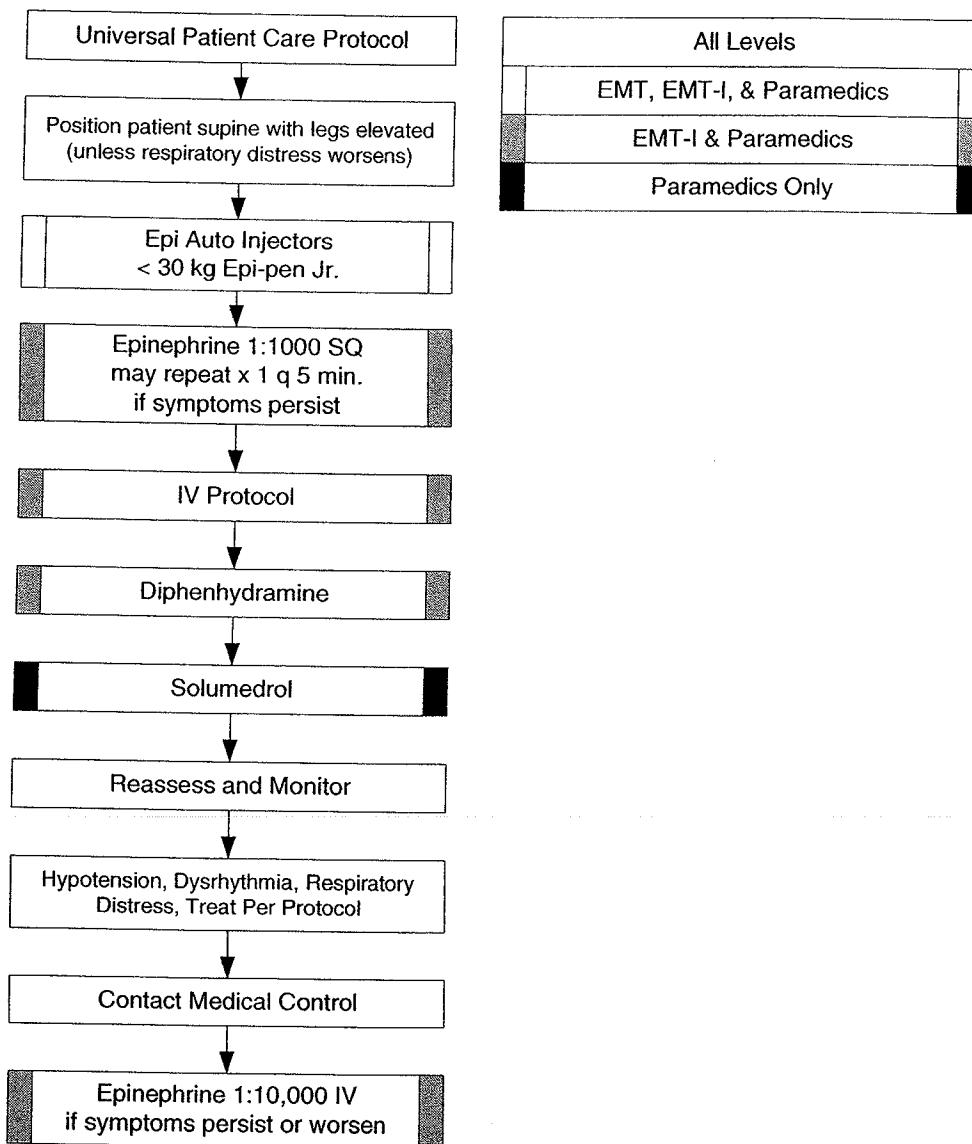
- Onset and Location
- Insect sting or bite
- Food allergy/exposure
- Medication allergy/exposure
- New clothing, soap, detergent
- Past history of reactions
- Past medical history
- Medication History

Signs / Symptoms:

- Itching or hives
- Coughing/wheezing or Respiratory Distress
- Chest or throat constriction
- Difficulty swallowing
- Hypotension or shock
- Edema

Differential:

- Urticaria (rash only)
- Anaphylaxis (systemic effect)
- Shock (vascular effect)
- Angioedema (drug induced)
- Aspiration/Airway Obstruction
- Vasovagal event
- Asthma or COPD
- CHF



Pearls:

- Exam: VS, Mental Status, Skin, Heart, Lungs
- Any patient with respiratory symptoms or extensive reaction should receive IV or IM diphenhydramine.
- The shorter the onset from symptoms to contact, the more severe the reaction.
- Reactions may be mild (hives) and progress to respiratory distress and death in minutes (very rare).
- Anaphylaxis can be defined as hypotension and shock with or without respiratory distress.
- Most food allergies are due to legumes, nuts, shellfish, eggs, wheat, or milk.