

Adverse Drug Reactions

Nursing

The two-type classification, and why it changes what you do about the reaction.

Type A · augmented

- An exaggeration of the known effect
- Dose-related and predictable
- Common; usually not fatal
- Often managed by dose reduction
- Example: bleeding on an anticoagulant

Type B · bizarre

- Unrelated to the known pharmacology
- Not dose-related; unpredictable
- Uncommon but often serious
- Usually means stopping the drug
- Example: anaphylaxis, severe skin reaction

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Ask what a reported allergy actually was — nausea is an intolerance, not an allergy, and mislabelling closes off useful drugs.

Educational reference. Report suspected reactions through the national pharmacovigilance scheme. Escalate severe reactions at once.