Allergic Reaction

History
• Onset and location
• Food allergy/exposure
• Medication allergy/exposure
• New clothing, soap, or detergent
• Past history of reactions
• Past medical history
• Medication history

Signs and Symptoms
• Itching or hives
• Erythema

Differential
• Urticaria (rash only)
• Anaphylaxis (systemic effect)
• Shock (vascular effect)
• Angioedema (drug induced)
• Cellulitis
• Contact dermatitis

Pearls
• Allergic reactions may occur with only respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms and have no rash or skin involvement.

San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services

For any simple allergic reaction that is isolated to the skin (hives/urticarial only) and does not meet definition of anaphylaxis