



## Wesleyan Christian Academy Medication Policy

### **Administering Medications to Students**

The purpose of this policy is to comply with North Carolina school health guidelines and best practice regarding medication given at school. School personnel should not administer medication to students unless appropriate administration cannot be reasonably accomplished outside of school hours. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for providing all medications to be administered, except for certain over-the-counter medications that are available in the school nurse's office (see below).

Medications to be administered at school, both prescription and non-prescription, must be prescribed and authorized by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or dentist on a Medication Administration Form. The form must also be signed by the student's parent/guardian. This form must be completed and turned in to the school nurse before any medication will be administered. All medications and forms will be reviewed by the school nurse prior to administration to a student. As an alternative, parents may choose to come and administer medications to their child.

**Medications must be brought to the school nurse's office by a parent/guardian, not the student.** Each medication must be accompanied by a medication form signed by the prescribing health care provider and the parent. If the dosage is changed, a newly labeled container and an updated medication form must be provided. No medication will be given beyond the expiration date.

Controlled substance medications (such as ADD or pain medications) will be counted by the nurse with the parent/guardian on receiving or pick-up of medications. The date, medication name, dosage and quantity will be logged and signed for by both the parent and nurse on the Medication Administration Checklist.

When treatment has been completed or at the end of the school year, unused medication should be picked-up by the parent/guardian. At the end of the school year, all expired and unclaimed medications will be disposed of by the school nurse after a reasonable amount of time has been allowed for pick-up.

**No student may carry medications or self-medicate** except for students with diabetes or students who require rescue medications such as epinephrine auto-injectors (epi-pens) and inhalers for asthma. Completed Medication Administration forms must be on file. Students with diabetes may self-administer insulin and carry glucagon, if deemed appropriate by their healthcare provider and the school nurse. Self-medication privileges may be revoked if the student exhibits a lack of responsible behavior.

**Prescription medications** must be provided in a current pharmacy-labeled container. The label should state the student's name, name of medication, dosage, frequency and method of administration, and the name of the prescribing physician. (Parents may want to have the pharmacist label two containers; one for home use and one for school use if the child is to receive the medication at both sites.)

**Non-prescription medication** must be provided in an original labeled container. All medications will be administered according to manufacturer's recommendations on the label unless otherwise indicated by the healthcare provider on the Medication Administration form. The following over-the-counter medications are available in the Nurse's Office: Acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil), Diphenhydramine (Benadryl), Antacid (Tums or Mylanta) and cough drops/throat lozenges. A Medication Administration form must be completed in order to be given.

### **Administration of medication**

Only WCA employees to whom such responsibility has been delegated by the school nurse will administer medications.

The training of staff will include the following:

- The 5 “Rights” of medication administration: Right Child, Right Medication, Right Dosage, Right Time, Right Route
- Safe storage and handling of medication, including medication disposal
- Documentation of medication administration
- Appropriate action for medication error, adverse reaction, or student refusal

Teachers should coordinate with the school nurse to have a plan for teacher absence and medication administration of daily non-emergent medications.

### **Documentation**

All administered student medications must be documented on a medication log and include the date, time, full student name, name and dosage of medication given, and initials of the person administering the medication. Logs will be kept with the medication and filed in the student’s health record at the end of the school year. Medications given in the Nurse’s Office will be recorded in the electronic student medical record.

### **Medication storage**

Daily non-emergent medication will be kept in the Nurse’s Office or in a locked medication box/file cabinet in the classroom as deemed appropriate by the school nurse. The school nurse and delegated teacher will be responsible for its supervision.

Medication requiring refrigeration will be stored in the medication refrigerator in the Nurse’s Office.

Emergency rescue medications for individual students, grade kindergarten through grade 6, such as epinephrine auto-injectors and inhalers, will be placed in the classroom first aid backpack. Responsible students in grade 5 and above who have healthcare provider authorization and who demonstrate proficiency may self-carry emergency medications. A Medication Administration form and a Student Contract for Self-Carried Medication/Equipment must be on file with the school nurse.

### **School Age Extended Care (SAEC)**

Those students who attend SAEC and require medication during SAEC times will follow the same procedures as outlined in this policy. A separate supply of medication must be provided and will be kept in the office of the SAEC director in a locked filing cabinet. If medication is needed, the SAEC director will administer the dose.

### **Off-Campus Trips**

The Medication Administration form is the authorized form used for all on-campus and off-campus activities, including overnight trips. Specific advisors/chaperones on the trip will be identified to administer medications while students are off campus. The school nurse will provide the appropriate completed medication administration forms to these individuals. No students on an off-campus trip will be allowed to self-carry any medications except in the case of rescue medications (epinephrine auto-injectors, inhalers and diabetic supplies). For medications normally taken at home outside of school hours, this may require advance planning to ensure necessary medication forms are completed.

When medications must be taken on overnight trips, the following safety measures should be taken:

- Send only essential medications on the trip.
- Send only the required amount of medication in a pharmacy labeled or over-the-counter labeled bottle.
- Identified advisors/chaperone accompanying the student will hold the medication and supervise the student taking the medication.

Questions related to this medication policy can be addressed by WCA's school nurse at 884-3333, ext 255.