

Students

Administering Medications

Administering Medication

The purpose of this policy is for the Board of Education (Board) to determine who shall administer medications in a school and the circumstances under which self-administration of medication by students shall be permitted.

The Board of Education allows students to self-administer medication and school personnel to administer medication to students in accordance with the established procedures, and applicable state regulations, sections 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-10 inclusive. In order to provide immunity afforded to school personnel who administer medication, the Board of Education, with the advice and approval of the School Medical Advisor and the school nurse, shall review and/or revise this policy and regulation biennially concerning the administration of medications to District students by a nurse, or in the absence of a nurse, by qualified personnel for schools. The District's School Medical Advisor (or other qualified physician) shall approve this policy, its regulations and any changes prior to adoption by the Board.

Definitions

Administration of medication means any one of the following activities: handling, storing, preparing or pouring of medication; conveying it to the student according to the medication order; observing the student inhale, apply, swallow, or self-inject the medication, when applicable; documenting that the medication was administered; and counting remaining doses to verify proper administration and use of the medication.

Advanced practice registered nurse means an individual licensed pursuant to C.G.S. 20-94a.

Authorized prescriber means a physician, dentist, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant, and for interscholastic and intramural athletic events only, a podiatrist.

Before- and after-school program means any child care program operated and administered by a local or regional Board of Education or municipality exempt from licensure by the Department of Public Health. Such programs shall not include public or private entities licensed by the Department of Public Health or Board of Education enhancement programs and extra-curricular activities.

Board of Education means a local or regional Board of Education, a regional educational service center, a unified school district, the regional vocational-technical school system, an approved private special education facility, the Gilbert School, the Norwich Free Academy, Woodstock Academy or a non-public school whose students receive services pursuant to Section 10-217a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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Definitions (continued)

Cartridge injector means an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for emergency first aid response to allergic reaction.

Coach means any person holding a coaching permit who is hired by a local or regional board of education to coach for a sport season.

Controlled drugs means those drugs as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-240.

Cumulative health record means the cumulative health record of a student mandated by Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-206.

Director means the person responsible for the operation and administration of any school readiness program or before- and after-school program.

Eligible student means a student who has reached the age of eighteen or is an emancipated minor.

Error means:

- (1) the failure to do any of the following as ordered:
 - (a) administer a medication to a student;
 - (b) administer medication within the time designated by the prescribing physician;
 - (c) administer the specific medication prescribed for a student;
 - (d) administer the correct dosage of medication;
 - (e) administer medication by the proper route; and/or
 - (f) administer the medication according to generally accepted standards of practice; or
- (2) the administration of medication to a student which is not ordered by an authorized prescriber, or which is not authorized in writing by the parent or guardian of such student.

Extracurricular activities means activities sponsored by local or regional Boards of Education that occur outside of the school day, are not part of the educational program, and do not meet the definition of before- and after-school programs.

Guardian means one who has the authority and obligations of guardianship of the person of a minor, and includes: (1) the obligation of care and control; and (2) the authority to make major decisions affecting the minor's welfare, including, but not limited to, consent determinations regarding marriage, enlistment in the armed forces and major medical, psychiatric or surgical treatment.

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Definitions (continued)

Intramural athletic events means tryouts, competition, practice, drills, and transportation to and from events that are within the bounds of a school district for the purpose of providing an opportunity for students to participate in physical activities and athletic contests that extend beyond the scope of the physical education program.

Interscholastic athletic events means events between or among schools for the purpose of providing an opportunity for students to participate in competitive contests which are highly organized and extend beyond the scope of intramural programs and includes tryouts, competition, practice, drills, and transportation to and from such events.

Investigational drug means any medication with an approved investigational new drug (IND) application on file with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is being scientifically tested and clinically evaluated to determine its efficacy, safety and side effects and which has not yet received FDA approval.

Licensed athletic trainer means a licensed athletic trainer employed by the school district pursuant to Chapter 375a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Medication means any medicinal preparation including over-the-counter, prescription and controlled drugs, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-240. This definition includes Aspirin, Ibuprofen or Aspirin substitutes containing Acetaminophen.

Medication emergency means a life-threatening reaction of a student to a medication.

Medication plan means a documented plan established by the school nurse in conjunction with the parent and student regarding the administration of medication in school. Such plan may be a stand-alone plan, part of an individualized health care plan, an emergency care plan or a medication administration form.

Medication order means the written direction by an authorized prescriber for the administration of medication to a student which shall include the name of the student, the name and generic name of the medication, the dosage of the medication, the route of administration, the time of administration, the frequency of administration, the indications for medication, any potential side effects including overdose or missed dose of the medication, the start and termination dates not to exceed a 12-month period, and the written signature of the prescriber.

Nurse means an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse licensed in Connecticut in accordance with Chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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Definitions (continued)

Occupational therapist means an occupational therapist employed full time by the local or regional board of education and licensed in Connecticut pursuant to Chapter 376a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Optometrist means an optometrist licensed to provide optometry pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Paraprofessional means a health care aide or assistant or an instructional aide or assistant employed by the local or regional Board of Education who meets the requirements of such Board for employment as a health care aide or assistant or instructional aide or assistant.

Physical therapist means a physical therapist employed full time by the local or regional Board of Education and licensed in Connecticut pursuant to Chapter 376 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Physician means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed to practice medicine in Connecticut pursuant to Chapters 370 and 371 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or licensed to practice medicine in another state.

Physician assistant means an individual licensed to prescribe medications pursuant to Section 20-12d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Podiatrist means an individual licensed to practice podiatry in Connecticut pursuant to Chapter 375 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Principal means the administrator in the school.

Qualified medical professional, as defined in C.G.S. 10-212, means a physician licensed under Chapter 370, an optometrist licensed to practice optometry under Chapter 380, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with Section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with Section 20-12d.

Qualified personnel for schools means (a) a full-time employee who is a qualified school employee, except that a coach, an athletic trainer, or school paraprofessional need not be a fulltime employee. For school readiness programs and before- and after-school programs, Directors or Director's designee, lead teachers and school administrators who have been trained in the administration of medication may administer medications pursuant to Section 10-212a-10 of the State regulations.

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Definitions (continued)

Qualified school employee, as defined in C.G.S. 10-212, means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional.

Research or study medications means FDA-approved medications being administered according to an approved study protocol. A copy of the study protocol shall be provided to the school nurse along with the name of the medication to be administered and the acceptable range of dose of such medication to be administered.

School means any educational facility or program which is under the jurisdiction of the Board excluding extracurricular activities.

School medical advisor means a physician appointed pursuant to C.G.S. 10-205.

School nurse means a nurse appointed in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-212.

School nurse supervisor means the nurse designated by the local or regional Board of Education as the supervisor or, if no designation has been made by the Board, the lead or coordinating nurse assigned by the Board.

School readiness program means a program that receives funds from the State Department of Education for a school readiness program pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-16p of the Connecticut General Statutes and exempt from licensure by the Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of Section 19a-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Self-administration of medication means the control of the medication by the student at all times and is self-managed by the student according to the individual medication plan.

Supervision means the overseeing of the process of the administration of medication in a school.

Teacher means a person employed full time by a Board of Education who has met the minimum standards as established by that Board for performance as a teacher and has been approved by the School Medical Advisor and school nurse to be designated to administer medications pursuant to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sections 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-7.

General Policies on Administration of Medication

A school nurse may administer medication to any student pursuant to the written order of an authorized prescriber (physician, dentist, optometrist, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant and for interscholastic and intramural athletic events only, a podiatrist) and the

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General Policies on Administration of Medication (continued)

written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child or eligible student and the written permission of the parent/guardian for the exchange of information between the prescriber and the school nurse necessary to ensure the safe administration of such medication.

In the absence of a school nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 378 only qualified personnel for schools who have been properly trained may administer medications to students as delegated by the school nurse upon approval of the School Medical Advisor and the school nurse may administer medication to any student in the school following the successful completion of specific training in administration of medication and satisfactory completion of the required criminal history check.

In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergic condition, (1) with the written authorization of such student's parent or guardian, and (2) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to protect such student against serious harm or death.

Medications with a cartridge injector may be administered by qualified personnel for schools only to a student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition which may require prompt treatment to protect the student against serious harm or death. Qualified personnel for schools, as defined, may administer oral, topical, intranasal, or inhalant medication in the absence of a licensed nurse. Investigational drugs or research or study medications may not be administered by qualified personnel for schools.

Coaches and licensed athletic trainers during intramural and interscholastic events may administer medications pursuant to Section 10-212a-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and as described in this policy and in the administrative regulations to this policy.

A child diagnosed with asthma or an allergic condition, pursuant to State Board of Education regulations, may carry an inhaler or an EpiPen or similar device in the school at all times if he/she is under the care of a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and such practitioner certifies in writing to the Board of Education that the child needs to keep an asthmatic inhaler or EpiPen at all times to ensure prompt treatment of the child's asthma or allergic condition and protect the child against serious harm or death. A written authorization of the parent/guardian is also required.

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General Policies on Administration of Medication (continued)

A child with diabetes may test his/her own blood glucose level per the written order of a physician stating the need and the capacity of such child to conduct self-testing along with written authorization of the parent/guardian. Such self-testing shall be pursuant to guidelines promulgated by the Commissioner of Education. The time or place where a student with diabetes may test his/her blood-glucose level on school grounds shall not be restricted provided the student has written parental/guardian permission and a written order from a physician licensed in Connecticut.

The school nurse or school principal shall select a qualified school employee to, under certain conditions, give a glucagon injection to a student with diabetes who may require prompt treatment to protect him/her from serious harm or death. The nurse or principal must have the written authority from the student's parent/guardian and a written order from the student's Connecticut-licensed physician. The authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer this medication unless he/she has annually completed any training required by the school nurse and school medical advisor in the administration of medication with injectable equipment used to administer glucagon, the school nurse and school medical advisor must attest that the qualified school employee has completed such training and the qualified school employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. The injections are to be given through an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver an appropriate dose of glucagon as emergency first aid response to diabetes.

In compliance with all applicable state statutes and regulations, parents/guardians may administer medications to their own children on school grounds.

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Administration of Medication by Paraprofessionals

A specific paraprofessional, through a plan approved by a school nurse and School Medical Advisor, may administer medications including medications administered with a cartridge injector, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death pursuant to Section 10-212a-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and as described in the administrative regulations. The approved plan also requires the written authorization of the student's parent/guardian and pursuant to the written order from the student's authorized prescriber licensed to prescribe medication.

Administration of Medications in School Readiness Programs and Before- and After-School Programs

Directors, or their designees, who may include lead teachers or school administrators, who have been properly trained, may administer medications to students as delegated by the school nurse or other registered nurse, in school readiness programs and before- and after-school programs that are child care programs. Such programs must either be District-administered or administered by a municipality exempt from licensure by the Department of Public Health and are located in a District public school. Medicine may be administered pursuant to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Section 10-212a-10, to children enrolled in these programs.

Administration of medications shall be provided only when it is medically necessary for program participants to access the program and maintain their health status while attending the program. A child attending any before- or after-school program, defined as any child care program operated and administered by the Board in any building or on the grounds of any district school, upon the request and with the written authorization of the child's parent/guardian and pursuant to the written order from the student's authorized prescriber, will be supervised by the District staff member (Director or designee, lead teacher, school administrator) trained to administer medication including a cartridge injector. Such administration shall be to a particular student medically diagnosed with an allergy that may require prompt treatment to avoid serious harm or death.

Investigational drugs or research or study medications may not be administered by Directors or their designees, lead teachers or school administrators.

Properly trained Directors, Directors' designees, lead teachers or school administrators may administer medications to students as delegated by the school nurse or other registered nurse. They may administer oral, topical, intranasal, or inhalant medications. No medication shall be administered without the written order of an authorized prescriber and the written approval of the parent/guardian.

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Administration of Medications in School Readiness Programs and Before- and After-School Programs (continued)

The selected staff member shall be trained in the use of a cartridge injector by either a licensed physician, physician's assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or registered nurse. The selected staff member is also required to complete a course in first aid offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, the National Ski Patrol, the Department of Public Health or any Director of Health.

The administration shall determine, in cooperation with the School Medical Advisor and school nurse whether additional school nursing services/nurses are required based on the needs of the program and the participants in the program. This determination shall include whether a licensed nurse is required on site. The recommendation shall be subject to Board approval.

The Board will allow students in the school readiness and before- and after-school programs to self-administer medication according to the student's individual health plan and only with the written order of an authorized prescriber, written authorization of the child's parent or guardian, written approval of the school nurse (The nurse has evaluated the situation and deemed it appropriate and safe and has developed a plan for general supervision of such self-medication.), and with the written permission of the parent or guardian for the exchange of information between the prescriber and the school nurse necessary to ensure the safe administration of such medication.

An error in the administration of medication shall be reported immediately to the school nurse, the parents/guardians and the prescribing physician. In case of an anaphylactic reaction or the risk of such reaction a school nurse may administer emergency oral and/or injectable medication to any child in need thereof on school grounds, or in the school building, according to the standing order of the School Medical Advisor or the child's private physician. However, in an emergency any other person trained in CPR and First Aid may administer emergency oral and/or injectable medication to any child in need on school grounds, or in the school building. In addition, local poison control center information shall be readily available at the sites of these programs. The Program Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for decision making in the absence of the nurse.

In the event of a medical emergency, the following will be readily available: (1) local poison information center contact information; (2) the physician, clinic or emergency room to be contacted in such an emergency; and (3) the name of the person responsible for the decision making in the absence of a school nurse.

All medications shall be handled and stored in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) to (k) inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as outlined in the accompanying administrative regulation to this policy.

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Administration of Medications in School Readiness Programs and Before- and AfterSchool Programs (continued)

Where possible, a separate supply of the child's medication shall be stored at the site of the before- or after-school program or school readiness program. If this is not possible, a plan should be in place to ensure the timely transfer of the medication from the school to the program and back on a daily basis.

Documentation and record keeping shall be done in compliance with the stipulations outlined in the administrative regulation accompanying this policy.

THE PORTION OF THIS POLICY PERTAINING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION IN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS AND BEFORE- AND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE BOARD ON AN ANNUAL BASIS WITH INPUT FROM THE SCHOOL MEDICAL ADVISOR OR A LICENSED PHYSICIAN AND THE SCHOOL NURSE SUPERVISOR.

Administration of Medication by Coaches and Licensed Athletic Trainers During Intramural and Interscholastic Events

During intramural and interscholastic athletic events, a coach or licensed athletic trainer who has been trained in the general principles of medication administration applicable to receiving, storing, and assisting with inhalant medications or cartridge injector medications and documentation, may administer medication for select students for whom self-administration plans are not viable options as determined by the school nurse.

The medication which may be administered is limited to: (1) inhalant medications prescribed to treat respiratory conditions and (2) medication administered with a cartridge injector for students with a medically diagnosed allergic condition which may require prompt treatment to protect the student against serious harm or death.

The school nurse is responsible for the student's individualized medication plan and shall provide the coach with a copy of the authorized prescriber's order and the parental/guardian permission form. Parents are responsible for providing the medication, such as the inhaler or cartridge injector, to the coach or licensed athletic trainer, which shall be kept separate from the medication stored in the school health office during the school day.

Medications to be used in athletic events shall be stored in containers for the exclusive use of holding medications; in locations that preserve the integrity of the medication; under the general supervision of the coach or licensed athletic trainer trained in the administration of medication; and in a locked secure cabinet when not in use at athletic events.

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Administration of Medication by Coaches and Licensed Athletic Trainers During Intramural and Interscholastic Events (continued)

The agreement of the coach or licensed athletic trainer is necessary for the administration of emergency medication and the implementation of the emergency care plan.

Coaches and athletic trainers are required to fulfill the documentation requirements as outlined in the administrative regulations accompanying this policy. Errors in the administration of medication shall be addressed as specified in Section 10-212a-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and detailed in the administrative regulation pertaining to this policy. If the school nurse is not available, a report may be submitted by the coach or licensed athletic trainer to the school nurse on the next school day.

Storage and Administration of Epinephrine Storage and Use of Epinephrine Cartridge Injectors (Emergency Administration of Epinephrine to Students without Prior Written Authorization)

A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a “qualified school employee” who has completed the training required by PA 14-176, shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions, who were not previously known to have serious allergies and who do not have a prior written authorization of a parent/guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine.

Note: Epipens expire yearly. Therefore schools are responsible for refilling their prescriptions annually.

The school nurse or school principal shall select qualified school employees who voluntarily agree to be trained to administer such epinephrine as emergency first aid. There shall be at least one such qualified school employee on the grounds of each District school during regular school hours in the absence of the school nurse. Each school must maintain a supply of epinephrine in cartridge injectors (epipens) for such emergency use.

Note: This requirement pertains only during regular school hours and does not include afterschool activities.

The school shall fulfill all conditions and procedures promulgated in the regulations established by the State Board of Education for the storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reaction and do not have prior written authorization for epinephrine administration.

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Storage and Administration of Epinephrine (continued)

The school nurse or, in the absence or unavailability of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer epinephrine to a student experiencing a life-threatening undiagnosed allergic reaction as emergency first aid, to students who do not have a prior written authorization from a parent or guardian or a prior written order from a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine. A qualified school employee must annually complete the required training program in order to be permitted to administer epinephrine utilizing an epipen.

The parent/guardian of a student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to his/her child permitted by statute. The District shall annually notify parents/guardians of the need to provide such written notice.

The Board of Education, recognizing this emergency use of epinephrine for previously undiagnosed students, per the statute, is to take place during “regular school hours” establishes such hours to be from the arrival of the first students to the school site to the departure of the last bus serving the school at the conclusion of the day’s instructional programs.

Note: *The regulations indicate that boards of education determine the regular school hours for each school. Another definition could be the hours specified in the Teacher’s Contract for the normal school/employment day in terms of hours.*

Administration of Anti-Epileptic Medications to Students

With the written authorization of a student’s parent/guardian, and pursuant to the written order of a physician, a school nurse (and a school medical advisor, if any), shall select and provide general supervision to a qualified school employee, who voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee, to administer anti-epileptic medication, including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in accordance with the student’s individual seizure action plan. Such authorization is limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer such medication unless he/she annually completes the training program developed by the State Department of Education.

In addition the school nurse (and school medical advisor, if any), shall attest, in writing, that such qualified school employee has completed the required training. The qualified school employee shall also receive reviews by the school nurse to confirm his/her competency to administer antiepileptic medication. For purposes of the administration of anti-epileptic medication, a “qualified school employee” means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by the District, coach or school paraprofessional.

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(cf. 4112.5/4212.5 – Security Check/Fingerprinting)

(cf. 5141 – Student Health Services)

(cf. 5141.23 – Students with Special Health Care Needs)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-206 Health Assessment

10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners. Administration of medications by parents or guardians on school grounds. Criminal history; records check.

10-212a Administration of medications in schools. (as amended by PA 99-2, and June Special Session and PA 03-211, PA 04-181, PA 07-241, PA 07-252, PA 09-155, PA 12-198, PA 14-176 and PA 15-215)

10-220j Blood glucose self-testing by children. Guidelines. (as amended by PA 12-198)

19a-900 Use of cartridge injector by staff member of before- or afterschool program, day camp or day care facility.

21a-240 Definitions

29-17a Criminal history checks. Procedure. Fees.

52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render. (as amended by PA 05-144, An Act Concerning the Emergency Use of Cartridge Injectors)

Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-10, inclusive, as amended.

Code of Federal Regulations: Title 21 Part 1307.2

20-12d Medical functions performed by physician assistants. Prescription authority.

20-94a Licensure as advanced practice registered nurse.

PA 07-241 An Act Concerning Minor Changes to the Education Statutes

29-17a Criminal history checks. Procedure. Fees.

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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 14
Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut