

Administering Medicines to Students

Policy Information

Series J - Students

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JLCD

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ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

Prescription Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to them by the school nurse acting under specific written request of the parent or guardian and under the written directive of the student's personal physician.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulates the administration of prescription medications and has promulgated detailed regulations governing the Administration of Prescription Medications in Public and Private Schools (105 CMR 210.00). The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing governs nursing practice, which includes the nurse's administration of all medications, including over-the-counter medications. No one but the school nurse, and those others listed in the medical administration plan acting within the above restrictions, may give any medication to any student.

The school district, through the head nurse, shall obtain Emergency Standing Orders from our school district physician, register with the Department of Public Health, and arrange training for unlicensed school personnel to administer epinephrine by auto injector to students with a diagnosed life threatening allergic condition.

The school district, through the head nurse, shall obtain a standing order from the school district physician for the administration of NARCAN, by the school nurse, to any person the school nurse has determined may be suffering from an opiate overdose in the school setting.

Following consultation with the school nurse, students who fall into the following exceptions may self-administer medications:

1. Students with asthma or other respiratory diseases may possess and administer prescription inhalers.
2. Students with cystic fibrosis may possess and administer prescription enzyme supplements.
3. Students with diabetes may possess and administer glucose monitoring tests and insulin delivery systems.
4. Students with life threatening allergies may possess and administer prescription Epinephrine.