

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AND MONITORING HEALTH CONDITIONS

Definitions

Authorized health care provider means an individual who is licensed by the State of California to prescribe or order medication, including, but not limited to, a physician or physician assistant.

Other designated school personnel may include any individual employed by the district who has consented to administer the medication or otherwise assist the student and who may legally administer the medication to the student or assist the student in the administration of the medication.

Medication may include not only a substance dispensed in the United States by prescription, but also a substance that does not require a prescription, such as over-the-counter remedies, nutritional supplements, and herbal remedies.

Emergency medical assistance for a student suffering an epileptic seizure means the administration of an emergency antiseizure medication such as diazepam rectal gel and other emergency medications approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for patients suffering from epileptic seizures.

Notifications to Parents/Guardians

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of the options available to students who need to take prescribed medication during the school day and the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians regarding those options.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parents/guardians of any student on a continuing medication regimen for a nonepisodic condition of the following requirements:

1. The parent/guardian is required to inform the school nurse or other designated employee of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician.
2. With the parent/guardian's consent, the school nurse or other designated employee may communicate with the student's physician regarding the medication and its effects and may counsel school personnel regarding the possible effects of the medication on the student's physical, intellectual, and social behavior, as well as possible behavioral signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omission, or overdose.

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Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the parent/guardian of any student who may need medication during the school day shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Each year, providing required parent/guardian and authorized health care provider written statements as described in the sections "Parent/Guardian Statement" and "Health Care Provider Statement" below. In addition, the parent/guardian shall provide a new authorized health care provider's statement if the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes.
2. If the student is on a continuing medication regimen for a nonepisodic condition, informing the school nurse or other designated certificated employee of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician.
3. If the student suffers from epilepsy, notifying the principal or designee whenever the student has had an emergency antiseizure medication administered to him/her within four hours before a school day.
4. Providing medications in properly labeled, original containers along with the authorized health care provider's instructions. For prescribed or ordered medication, the container also shall bear the name and telephone number of the pharmacy, the student's identification, and the name and phone number of the authorized health care provider.

Parent/Guardian Statement

When district employees are to administer medication to a student, the parent/guardian's written statement shall:

1. Identify the student
2. Grant permission for an authorized district representative to communicate directly with the student's authorized health care provider and pharmacist, as may be necessary, regarding the authorized health care provider's written statement or any other questions that may arise with regard to the medication
3. Contain an acknowledgment that the parent/guardian understands how district employees will administer or otherwise assist the student in the administration of medication

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4. Contain an acknowledgment that the parent/guardian understands his/her responsibilities to enable district employees to administer or otherwise assist the student in the administration of medication including, but not limited to, the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide a written statement from the authorized health care provider, to ensure that the medication is delivered to the school in a proper container by an individual legally authorized to be in possession of the medication, and to provide all necessary supplies and equipment
5. Contain an acknowledgment that the parent/guardian may terminate consent for such administration at any time

In addition to the requirements in items #1-5 above, if a parent/guardian has requested that his/her child be allowed to carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine or prescription inhaled asthma medication, the parent/guardian's written statement shall:

1. Consent to the self-administration
2. Release the district and school personnel from civil liability if the student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administering the medication

In addition to the requirements in items #1-5 above, if a parent/guardian wishes to designate an individual who is not an employee of the district to administer medication to his/her child, the parent/guardian's written statement shall clearly identify the individual and shall state:

1. The individual's willingness to accept the designation
2. That the individual is permitted to be on the school site
3. Any limitations on the individual's authority

Health Care Provider Statement

When district employees are to administer medication to a student or when a student is to be allowed to carry and self-administer prescription diabetes medication, auto-injectable epinephrine, or prescription inhaled asthma medication during school hours, the authorized health care provider's written statement shall include:

1. Clear identification of the student
2. The name of the medication

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3. The method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken
4. If a parent/guardian has requested that his/her child be allowed to self-administer medication, confirmation that the student is able to self-administer the medication
5. For medication that is to be administered on an as-needed basis, the specific symptoms that would necessitate administration of the medication, allowable frequency for administration, and indications for referral for medical evaluation
6. Possible side effects of the medication
7. Name, address, telephone number, and signature of the student's authorized health care provider

When authorizing a district employee to administer emergency antiseizure medication to a student, the authorized health care provider's written statement shall also include the following:

1. Detailed seizure symptoms, including frequency, type, or length of seizures that identify when the administration of the medication becomes necessary
2. A protocol for observing the student after a seizure, including, but not limited to, whether he/she should rest in the school office or return to his/her class, the length of time for direct observation, and a requirement to contact the school nurse and the student's parent/guardian to continue the observation plan

District Responsibilities

The school nurse or other designated school personnel shall:

1. Administer or assist in administering medications in accordance with the authorized health care provider's written statement
2. Accept delivery of medications from parents/guardians and count and record them upon receipt
3. Maintain a list of students needing medication during the school day, including those authorized to self-administer medications, and note on the list the type of medication and the times and dosage to be administered

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4. Maintain a medication log which may:
 - a. Specify the student's name, medication, dose, method of administration, time of administration during the regular school day, date(s) on which the student is required to take the medication, and the authorized health care provider's name and contact information
 - b. Contain space for daily recording of the date, time, and amount of medication administered, and the signature of the individual administering the medication
5. Maintain a medication record which may include the authorized health care provider's written statement, the parent/guardian's written statement, the medication log, and any other written documentation related to the administration of medication to the student
6. Ensure that student confidentiality is appropriately maintained
7. Coordinate the administration of medication during field trips and after-school activities
8. Report to the parent/guardian and the site administrator any refusal by the student to take his/her medication
9. Keep all medication to be administered by the district in a locked drawer or cabinet
10. As needed, communicate with the authorized health care provider and pharmacist regarding the medication and its effects
11. Counsel other designated school personnel regarding the possible effects of the medication on the student's physical, intellectual, and social behavior, as well as possible behavioral signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omission, or overdose
12. Ensure that unused, discontinued, or outdated medication is returned to the student's parent/guardian at the end of the school year or, if the medication cannot be returned, dispose of it in accordance with state laws and local ordinances
13. Provide immediate medical assistance, if needed, and report to the site administrator and parent/guardian instances when the medication is not administered properly, including administration of the wrong medication or failure to administer the medication in accordance with authorized health care provider's written statement

Upon receiving such notification, the site administrator may notify the student's authorized health care provider and shall document the error in the medication log.

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Additional Requirements for Management of Epileptic Seizures

In addition to other applicable provisions in preceding sections, the Superintendent or designee shall make arrangements for assisting students with epilepsy who may suffer a seizure at school. Such arrangements shall include the following: (Education Code 49414.7)

1. The notification of any parent/guardian who requests that a nonmedical district employee be trained to provide emergency medical assistance to his/her child that the child may qualify for services or accommodations under a Section 504 plan or an individualized education program (IEP).

The Superintendent or designee shall assist the parent/guardian to explore that option and shall encourage him/her to adopt the option if the student is determined to be eligible for such service or accommodation.

2. The creation of an individualized health plan, seizure action plan, or other appropriate health plan designed to acknowledge and prepare for the child's health care needs in school, if a parent/guardian refuses to have his/her child assessed for services or accommodations under the Section 504 plan or an IEP.
3. The distribution of an electronic notice to school staff, no more than twice per school year, for each student whose parent/guardian has requested provision of emergency medical assistance pursuant to Education Code 49414.7. The notice shall be in bold print and, in accordance with Education Code 49414.7, shall contain a description of the volunteer request, the training that the volunteer will receive, the voluntary nature of the program, and the timelines for the volunteer to rescind his/her offer.

If no employee volunteers to administer emergency antiseizure medication to a student, the Superintendent or designee shall renotify the student's parent/guardian of the option to be assessed for services and accommodations under Section 504 and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

4. An assurance that any employee who volunteers to administer an emergency antiseizure medication receives training from a licensed health care professional before administering such medication. When a trained employee has not administered an emergency antiseizure medication to a student within two years after completing the training, he/she shall attend a new training program to retain the ability to administer an emergency antiseizure medication.

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5. An assurance that any training provided for district employees who volunteer to administer emergency antiseizure medications to students includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Recognition and treatment of different types of seizures
 - b. Administration of an emergency antiseizure medication
 - c. Basic emergency follow-up procedures, including, but not limited to, a requirement for the principal or designee to call the emergency 911 telephone number and to contact the student's parent/guardian, but not necessarily to transport the student to an emergency room
 - d. Techniques and procedures to ensure student privacy
6. A process for notifying the credentialed school nurse, or the Superintendent or designee as applicable, whenever an employee administers an emergency antiseizure medication to a student at a school site.

Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

The Superintendent or designee shall provide epinephrine auto-injectors to school nurses or other employees who have volunteered to administer them in an emergency and have received training. The school nurse, or a volunteer employee when a school nurse or physician is unavailable, may administer an epinephrine auto-injector to provide emergency medical aid to any person suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from potentially life-threatening symptoms of anaphylaxis at school or a school activity. (Education Code 49414)

At least once per school year, the Superintendent or designee shall distribute to all staff a notice requesting volunteers to be trained to administer an epinephrine auto-injector and describing the training that the volunteer will receive. (Education Code 49414)

The principal or designee at each school may designate one or more volunteers to receive initial and annual refresher training, which shall be provided by a school nurse or other qualified person designated by a physician and surgeon authorized pursuant to Education Code 49414, and shall be based on the standards developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Written materials covering the required topics for training shall be retained by the school for reference. (Education Code 49414)

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Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (continued)

A school nurse or other qualified supervisor of health, or a district administrator if the district does not have a qualified supervisor of health, shall obtain a prescription for epinephrine auto-injectors for each school from an authorized physician and surgeon. Such prescription may be filled by local or mail order pharmacies or epinephrine auto-injector manufacturers. Elementary schools shall, at a minimum, be provided one adult (regular) and one junior epinephrine auto-injector. Secondary schools shall be provided at least one adult (regular) epinephrine auto-injector, unless there are any students at the school who require a junior epinephrine auto-injector. (Education Code 49414)

If an epinephrine auto-injector is used, the school nurse or other qualified supervisor of health shall restock the epinephrine auto-injector as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than two weeks after it is used. In addition, epinephrine auto-injectors shall be restocked before their expiration date. (Education Code 49414)

Information regarding defense and indemnification provided by the district for any and all civil liability for volunteers administering epinephrine auto-injectors shall be provided to each volunteer and retained in his/her personnel file. (Education Code 49414)