

# Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications

Asthma is an inflammatory disease of the respiratory tract. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergic reaction that may involve systems of the entire body. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical treatment and follow-up care by an allergist/immunologist.

It is the policy of the board of directors that students with asthma or anaphylaxis are afforded the opportunity to self-administer prescribed medications. The student's parent or guardian will submit a written request and other documentation required by the school. The student's prescribing health care provider must provide a written treatment plan.

The student must demonstrate to the school's professional registered nurse that the student is competent to possess and self-administer prescribed medications during school and at school sponsored events.

The superintendent will establish procedures that implement this policy and follow emergency rescue procedures outlined in the most recent edition of *AMES: Asthma Management in Educational Settings*, in cases of suspected asthma and the emergency rescue procedures outlined in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis (2009)* in cases of suspected anaphylaxis.

**Cross References:** Model Policy 3416  
Model Policy 2161

Model Policy 2162

Model Policy 3420

**Legal References:** 42 U.S.C. 280  
42 U.S.C. 12212  
34 CFR Part 104  
RCW 28A.210.370  
RCW 28A.210.380

**Management Resources:**

*Policy News*, August, 2012

*Policy News*, February 2009

OSPI, March 2009

**Medication at School  
Special Education and Related  
Services for Eligible Students  
Education of Students with  
Disabilities under Section 504 of  
the Rehabilitative Act of 1973  
Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response**

Public Health Service Act  
Section 512 Americans with  
Disabilities Act of 1990  
Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of  
1973  
Students with Asthma  
Anaphylaxis-Policy guidelines-  
Procedures-Reports

**Self-Administration of Asthma and  
Anaphylaxis Medications  
Anaphylaxis Prevention Policy  
Required  
Guidelines for the Care of Students  
with Anaphylaxis**

**Adoption Date: September 26, 2005  
School District Name: Grandview  
Revised: 08.05; 08.12**

## Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications

Asthma is an inflammatory disease of the respiratory tract. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergic reaction that may involve systems of the entire body. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical treatment and follow-up care by an allergist/immunologist.

Students with asthma or anaphylaxis are authorized, in consultation with the school's professional registered nurse, to possess and self-administer medication for asthma or anaphylaxis during the school day, during school sponsored events and while traveling to and from school or school sponsored activities. The student will be authorized to possess and self-administer medication if the following conditions are met:

1. The parent or guardian must submit a written request for the student to self-administer medication(s) for asthma or anaphylaxis;
  2. A health care practitioner has prescribed the medication for use by the student during school hours and the student has received instructions in the correct and responsible way to use the medication(s);
  3. The student demonstrates to the health care practitioner and a professional registered nurse at the school the skill necessary to use the medication and to use the device necessary to administer the medication;
  4. The health care practitioner provides a written treatment plan for managing the asthma or anaphylaxis episodes of the student and for use of medication during school hours. The written treatment plan should include name and dosage of the medication, frequency with which it may be administered, possible side effects and the circumstances that warrant its use;
  5. The parent or guardian must sign a statement acknowledging that the district will incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the student and that the parents or guardians will indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or agents against any claims arising out of the self administration of medication by the student.
- A. The authorization to self medicate will be valid for the current school year only. The parent or guardian must renew the authorization each school year.
- B. In the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency, the district will have the following easily accessible:
1. The student's written treatment plan;
  2. The parent or guardian's written request that the student self medicate; and
  3. The parent or guardian's signed release of liability form.
- C. Backup medication, if provided by the parent or guardian, will be kept at a location in the school to which the student has immediate access in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency.
- D. A student's authorization to possess and self-administer medication for asthma or anaphylaxis may be limited or revoked by the building principal after consultation with the school's professional registered nurse and the student's parents or guardian if the student demonstrates an inability to responsibly possess and self-administer such medication.

## **Asthma or Anaphylaxis Rescue Procedures**

In the event of an asthma or anaphylactic episode, the school nurse will be immediately contacted. In the absence of the school nurse, the person responsible for school health duties will be contacted.

For asthma the district will follow the procedures outline in the most recent edition of the *AMES: Asthma Management in Educational Settings* including:

- A. Managing the students' school environment;
- B. Training school personnel in rescue procedures;
- C. Accompanying all students exhibiting symptoms;
- D. Providing care as designed in the student's emergency care plan;
- E. Calling 911, if appropriate;
- F. Notifying the students parent or guardian;
- G. Documenting interventions; and
- H. Reviewing the student's emergency care plan and making changes, if necessary.

For anaphylaxis, the district will follow the *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis* published by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.