Nurse Protocol for Administration of Acetaminophen with Standing Order

The following procedures are to be used by school nurses for administration of district provided Tylenol or generic equivalent, Acetaminophen. Over- the- counter medications with a standing order are to be administered to students only while on campus. This protocol will be reviewed by the Chief Medical Advisor and Health Services Director yearly.

The Standardized Nursing Procedure is intended as a reference to support the school nurse in the management of medication administration to students, so they are ready to learn. The procedure does not dictate an exclusive course of action. Care should be based on best nursing judgment to the clinical circumstance.

Standardized Nursing Procedure

- Assess and document vital signs of student, including temperature and other pertinent history including potential drug allergies.
- If student is pregnant and or breastfeeding, approved over-the-counter medication with a standing order **shall not** be administered.
- District provided Tylenol or generic equivalent, Acetaminophen, may **only** be given for fever 101 or greater.
- Administration of district provided Tylenol or generic equivalent, Acetaminophen, does **not** exempt student from being sent home.
- Verify parent's written consent for administration of over-the-counter medications with a standing order. If there is no written consent, **DO NOT ADMINISTER.**
- Check student electronic health record to verify if student has received approved over-the-counter medication for 3 consecutive days or 3 times in a month or once for the day.
- If student electronic health record confirms that student received approved over-the-counter medication once for the day while at school, call parent. **DO NOT ADMINISTER**.
    - Approved over-the-counter medication **shall not** be administered more than once a day while at school.
- If student electronic health record confirms that student received approved over-the-counter medication for 3 consecutive days or 3 times in a month, call parent. **DO NOT ADMINISTER**. Refer to healthcare provider.
- Approved over-the-counter medication **shall not** be administered more than 3 consecutive days or 3 times in a month.
- If student electronic health record confirms that student has **not** received approved over-the-counter medication for 3 consecutive days or 3 times in a month or once for the day, contact parent for **verbal consent**. Ask parent if student received Tylenol or generic equivalent, Acetaminophen, any over-the-counter or prescription medication that may contain analgesic before coming to school.
- If parent indicates an analgesic over-the-counter or prescription medication was given before school, ask what time it was given. Document parent response.
- If written consent is verified and you are unable to reach parent to obtain verbal consent, you must **not** administer over-the-counter medications with a standing order.
- **Both** written and verbal consent **must** be obtained **and** appropriate dosing interval verified prior to administration of over-the-counter medications with a standing order.
- Proceed with administration. Dose will not exceed FDA guidelines.
- Dosage should be based on weight (in pounds). ***See dosage chart***
- Document administration of over-the-counter medication with a standing order in electronic health record on the day of administration.

    - Documentation of over-the-counter medication with a standing order will only occur in the EHR for monthly report and inventory procedure.
- Allow student to drink water and rest.
- Re-assess and document temperature three (3) times after administration in 30-minute intervals. Example: 30 minutes, 60 minutes and 90 minutes after administration.
- If temperature has not changed or has increased 90 minutes after administration contact parent immediately and send student home.
- Student may return to class based on assessment findings and nursing judgement.

Contraindications

- Acetaminophen is contraindicated:
    - With known hypersensitivity to acetaminophen
    - Liver problems (active liver disease, liver failure, inflammation of liver)
    - Renal impairment or active kidney disease
    - Pregnant and or breastfeeding
    - Alcohol abuse (3 or more alcoholic drinks per day)
    - Use of a prescription drug that may interact with Acetaminophen
    - Other condition as determined by parent and or healthcare provider

Allergic Reaction Signs/Symptoms

In very rare cases allergic reactions occur. Symptoms include:

- Difficulty breathing or swallowing
- Swelling of face, lips, throat or tongue
- Hives, severe itching, peeling or blistering of skin

See Other Protocol (Emergency Care/Algorithms)

- Headache
- Head and neck injury
- Dental, Oral, Facial Injury/Pain
- Anaphylaxis/Allergic Reaction

Monitor Vital Signs and Refer for Immediate Medical Care

- Neurological symptoms are present (i.e., confusion, unsteady walking, slurred speech, blurred or double vision, stiff neck, student lethargic)
- Severe headache with fever
- Severe headache with stiff neck
- Severe headache with vomiting
- If student shows any signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction after ingesting Tylenol or generic equivalent, Acetaminophen, contact parent and follow Anaphylaxis/Allergic Reaction Algorithm

Refer for Medical Evaluation (*list not exclusive*)

- Parent requests student to be seen by health care provider
- Sore throat present more than 24 hours with headache

- Sinus pain/pressure or ear pain
- **Unusual/suspicious rash**
- Has underlying immune system problems, history of seizure, or take steroids
- Fever after immunizations administered
- Fever after dental extraction/procedure

Monthly report and Inventory Procedure

- A monthly report will be extracted and sent to Medical Advisor for review.
- Expiration dates of district provided over-the counter medication must be checked and documented in the EHR monthly at a minimum as directed by Chief Medical Advisor and Director.

Failure to adhere to parameters of the standing order which include but are not limited to verification and documentation of written and verbal parent consent, fever guidelines, other pertinent history, and FDA dosage recommendations is a violation of Board Policy and grounds for disciplinary action.