

Medication at School

General Statement

Under normal circumstances, all student medications, both prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications, should be administered before and/or after school hours under supervision of the parent or guardian.

When it is necessary for a student to receive prescription or OTC oral medication, topical medication, eye drops, ear drops, or nasal spray at school or at school-sponsored events, the parent must submit a written authorization from a licensed healthcare provider (LHP) prescribing within the scope of his or her prescriptive authority. The written authorization must also include a parent/guardian signature. If the medication will be administered for more than fifteen consecutive days, the health professional must also provide written, current and unexpired instructions for the administration of the medication.

The superintendent will establish procedures for:

- A. Delegating, training and supervision of staff members in the administration of prescription or non-prescription medications by a registered nurse (RN) or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP).
- B. Designating staff members who may administer prescription or non-prescription medications to students;
- C. Obtaining a signed and dated licensed healthcare provider request for the administration of prescription or non-prescription medications at school, including written instructions from the licensed healthcare provider if the medication is to be given for more than fifteen days;
- D. Obtaining signed and dated parental permission for the administration of prescription or non-prescription medications at school;
- E. Storing all medication in a locked or limited access facility; and
- F. Maintaining records pertaining to the administration of all medication.
- G. Permitting, under limited circumstances, students to carry and self-administer medications necessary to their attendance at school. Self-carry medications are limited to medications required for life-threatening rescue which include, but are not limited to epinephrine auto-injectors, Diphenhydramine, and/or metered dose inhalers.

Medications including suppositories, non-emergency injections or any injectable medication which must be withdrawn from a multi-dose vial (e.g. insulin, glucagon) may NOT be administered by school staff other than registered nurses or licensed practical nurses. No medication will be administered by injection by school staff except when a student is susceptible to a pre-determined, life-threatening situation (See Policy 3420, Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response). In such an instance, the parent will submit a written and signed permission statement. Such an authorization will be supported signed and dated written orders accompanied by supporting directions from a licensed healthcare provider. A staff member will be trained prior to injecting any allowable medication.

Administration of legend (prescribed) drugs or controlled substances by nasal spray:

If a licensed school nurse is on the premises, he/she may administer a nasal spray containing a prescribed drug or controlled substance to a student. If a licensed nurse is not on the premises, a

nasal spray containing a legend (prescribed) drug or controlled substance may be administered by: 1) a trained school employee, provided that person has received appropriate registered nurse delegation, and volunteered for the training pursuant to RCW 28A210.260; or 2) a parent-designated adult.

A parent designated adult is a volunteer, who may or may not be a school district employee, who receives additional training from a licensed healthcare professional or expert in epileptic seizure care selected by the student's parent/guardian and who provides care for the student at school or school-related activities consistent with the student's individual health plan on file with the school.

Required notification of EMS

After administration of any legend (prescribed) drug or controlled substance by nasal spray to a student, Emergency Medical Services (911) will be summoned as soon as practicable.

Medical Marijuana

While medical marijuana use is legal under Washington state law, it continues to be a criminal offense under Federal law. Therefore, there will be no accommodation of any marijuana use on any school grounds, school bus or any school-related activities.

If the district decides to discontinue administering a student's medication, the superintendent or designee must provide notice to the student's parent or guardian orally and in writing prior to the discontinuance. There shall be a valid reason for the discontinuance that does not compromise the health of the student or violate legal protections for the disabled.

Administration of Sunscreen

Over-the-counter sunscreen is not considered a medication. However, students may bring their own sunscreen to school for application. Parents/guardians must supply their own students' sunscreen supply.

School staff are not obligated to apply the sunscreen to students, but may help students apply the sunscreen if assistance is needed.

As some people are allergic to PABA, an ingredient common in sunscreen, and students should not share their sunscreen with any other students except those in the same family.

Cross References:

3420 – Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response

3419 – Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications

Legal References:

RCW 28A.210.260 Administration of Medication — Conditions

RCW 28A.210.270 Administration of Medication — Immunity from Liability -
Discontinuance, procedure

HB 5404 Use of Sunscreen at school

Management Resources:

2014 – February Issue

2012 – August Issue

Policy News, February 2001 Oral Medication Definition Expanded

Adoption Date:

Revised: 02.01; 12.11; 08.12; 02.14; 7.17

Classification: Essential
Current Version Adopted: 06.21