

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

A. General Provisions for Administration of Medication

Medication, whether prescription or over the counter (“OTC”), shall only be administered to or taken by students during the school day in accordance with this policy, and the corresponding administrative procedures record-keeping found in **JLCD-R**.

This policy shall extend to any school-sponsored activity, event, or program.

Medication is to be administered by a school nurse, as defined in RSA 200:29 (“the school nurse”). The school nurse may delegate the administration of medication to others only as permitted under the New Hampshire Nurse Practice Act and N.H. Code of Administrative Regulations Nur 404. If no such person is available, the building principal or the principal’s designee is permitted to assist students in taking required medications by:

1. making such medications available to the student as needed;
2. observing the student as they take or do not take their medication; and
3. recording whether the student did or did not take the medication.

Whenever possible, medications should not be taken during the school day. Upon receiving a request from the parent/guardian or physician relative to a particular student’s need for medication during school hours, the school nurse may contact the parent/guardian to discuss whether the student should remain at home, or whether the medication should be taken before, during, and/or after school. The nurse may also inquire about any other medical conditions requiring medications and any special side effects, contraindications, and adverse reactions to be observed.

1. Prescription Medication will be administered in school only after receiving and filing in the student’s health record the following:
 - a. A written statement from the licensed prescriber conforming to the requirements of N.H. Education Department Rule 311.02 (i)(1) (included in District procedures **JLCD-R**).
 - b. A written authorization from the parent/guardian as provided in N.H. Education Department Rule 311.02 (i)(2) & (3) (included in District procedures **JLCD-R**).
2. Over-the-Counter Medication may be administered to a student with previous written authorization from the parent/guardian. The school nurse may, however, require a licensed prescriber’s order, or further information/direction from a licensed health care provider (i.e., physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, licensed physician’s assistant, or dentist) before administering an OTC medication to a student. The authorization shall contain the same information, with the same access, as is required relative to prescription medications.

To the extent consistent with New Hampshire’s Nurse Practices Act, RSA 326-B, the school nurse may, at their discretion, accept verbal instructions from a licensed health care provider relative to administration of a prescription medication, and verbal instructions from a parent/guardian with respect to an OTC medication. In both instances, the verbal instructions shall be followed by written statements as provided above.

B. Emergency Administration of Medication

The school nurse or other properly designated personnel may administer other medications to students in emergency situations, provided such personnel has all training as is required by law, and is consistent with the provisions of policy **JLCE**.

C. Field Trips and School-Sponsored Activities

A single dose of medication may be transferred by the school nurse from the original container to a newly-labeled container for the purposes of field trips or school-sponsored activities. For trips or activities necessitating more than one dose, special arrangements for administering medication must be approved by the school nurse or, in the school nurse's absence, the Principal.

D. Other Uses/Administration Prohibited

No person shall share with or otherwise administer any prescription or over-the counter medication to any student except as provided in this policy. Notice of this prohibition will be provided in student handbooks. Students acting in violation of this prohibition will be subject to discipline consistent with applicable Board policies.

E. Delivery, Storage, and Disposal of Medication

Medications provided by the student's parent/guardian may only be delivered to the school nurse or principal/principal's designee. All such medication should be delivered in its original container. The school nurse is directed to keep such medications in a locked cabinet or refrigerator. No more than a 30-day supply will be kept and maintained by the school. The school nurse will contact the parent/guardian regarding any unused medication. Such medication shall be picked up by the parent/guardian within ten (10) days after its use is discontinued. If the parent/guardian does not pick up the medication within ten (10) days, the school nurse may dispose of the unused medication and record as such in the student's health record file.

The school nurse may maintain a supply of asthma-related rescue medication and the emergency medication epinephrine.

F. Administration and Self-Administration of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors and Inhalers

Students may possess and self-administer an epinephrine auto-injector if the student suffers from potentially life-threatening allergies. Both the student's parent/guardian and physician must authorize such self-possession and self-administration. If a student finds it necessary to use their auto-injector, they shall immediately report to the nearest supervising adult. The school nurse or building principal may maintain at least one epinephrine auto-injector, provided by the student, in the nurse's office or other suitable location. Additionally, students may possess and self-administer a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate or prevent asthmatic symptoms, auto-injectors for severe allergic reactions, and other injectable medications necessary to treat life-threatening allergies. Both the student's parent/guardian and physician must authorize such self-possession and self-administration. Such authorization must include the same information required under A.1 of this policy.

Other emergency medications, such as insulin, may be carried and self-administered by the student only with prior approval by the school nurse and written statements from a licensed health care provider and a parent/guardian, and in the same manner as described in A.1 of this

policy, and subject to other conditions as the school nurse may require.

G. Medication Records

The school nurse is responsible for keeping accurate records regarding the administration of medication to students. Such records shall be retained as required under policy **EHB**.

H. Implementation: Procedures and Protocols

The Superintendent, in consultation with the school nurse(s), shall be responsible for establishing specific procedures necessary and appropriate to control (e.g., delivery, storage, authorization, record-keeping, reporting, etc.) medications in the schools. Such procedures shall be in writing and coded as **JLCD-R**. The procedures should be reviewed no less than every two years.

Additionally, and pursuant to N.H. Administrative Rule Ed. 311.02(k), each school nurse shall develop and implement building-specific protocols regarding receipt and safe storage of prescription medications.

Legal References:

<i>RSA 200:40-b</i>	<i>Glucagon Injections</i>
<i>RSA 200:42</i>	<i>Possession and Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors Permitted</i>
<i>RSA 200:43</i>	<i>Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injector</i>
<i>RSA 200:44</i>	<i>Availability of Epinephrine Auto-Injector</i>
<i>RSA 200:44-a</i>	<i>Anaphylaxis Training Required</i>
<i>RSA 200:45</i>	<i>Student Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors - Immunity</i>
<i>RSA 200:46</i>	<i>Possession and Self-Administration of Asthma Inhalers Permitted</i>
<i>RSA 200:47</i>	<i>Use of Asthma Medications by Students - Immunity</i>
<i>RSA 200:54</i>	<i>Supply of Bronchodilators, Spacers, or Nebulizers</i>
<i>RSA 200:55</i>	<i>Administration of Bronchodilators, Spacers, or Nebulizers</i>
<i>RSA 326-B</i>	<i>Nurse Practices Act</i>
<i>NH Code of Admin. Rules Nur 404</i>	<i>Ongoing Requirements</i>
<i>NH Code of Admin. Rules Section Ed 306.12(b)(2)</i>	<i>Special Physical Health Needs of Students</i>
<i>NH Code of Admin. Rules Section Ed 311.02(d)</i>	<i>Medication During School Day</i>

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