

5160 Administration of Medication Policy

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The Board of Directors of Altus Schools Southern California, Inc. hereby adopts this Administration of Medication Policy to apply to Audeo Charter School II, Audeo Valley Charter School, Altus Schools Coachella Valley, Altus Schools East County, Altus Schools Mirus, Altus Schools North County, and Altus Schools South Bay, all hereafter collectively referred to as “Charter School.”

Charter School staff is responsible for overseeing the administration of medication to students attending Charter School during the regular school day. It is imperative that practices followed in the administration of medication be carefully delineated to ensure the safety of our students and the legal protection of our employees.

Definitions

- “*Authorized health care provider*” means an individual who is licensed by the State of California to prescribe medication.
- “*Authorizing physician and surgeon*” may include, but is not limited to, a physician and surgeon employed by, or contracting with, a local educational agency, a medical director of the local health department, or a local emergency medical services director.
- “*School nurse*” means an individual who is currently a credentialed and licensed registered nurse employed by the Charter School.
- “*Designated personnel*” or “*volunteer*” means an individual employed by the Charter School who has consented to administer the particular medication or emergency assistance to individuals as permitted by this policy and may legally administer the medication or emergency assistance to the individual receiving it. To be eligible, the “designated personnel” or “volunteer” must have been designated by Charter School and have received the required training as set forth in this policy.
- For the purposes of administering epinephrine delivery systems, this also includes a holder of an Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate who has specifically volunteered to administer epinephrine delivery systems to a person if the person is suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from anaphylaxis, or employees of a childcare program operated by or under contract with Charter School, who have volunteered, received training, and are subject to liability limitations pursuant to Section 1596.7985 of the Health and Safety Code.
- “*Childcare program*” means a state or federally subsidized childcare program operated by, or under contract with, the local educational agency, including, but not limited to, a California state preschool program or Head Start program pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 8200) of Part 6 of Division 1 of Title 1, or a childcare program, including, but not limited to, general childcare and development programs pursuant to Part 1.8 (commencing with Section 10207) of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- “*Medication*” includes prescription medication, over-the-counter remedies, nutritional supplements, and herbal remedies. Sunscreen is not considered a medication.

- *"Epinephrine delivery system"* means a disposable delivery system designed for the delivery of a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body to prevent or treat a life-threatening allergic reaction.
- *"Anaphylaxis"* means a potentially life-threatening hypersensitivity to a substance. Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, difficulty talking or swallowing, hives, itching, swelling, shock, or asthma. Causes of anaphylaxis may include, but are not limited to, an insect sting, food allergy, drug reaction, and exercise.
- *"Opioid antagonist"* means naloxone hydrochloride ("NARCAN") or another drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") that, when administered, negates or neutralizes in whole or in part the pharmacological effects of an opioid in the body, and has been approved for the treatment of an opioid overdose.
- *"Regular school day"* includes during school hours, before- or after-school programs, field trips, extracurricular or co-curricular activities, and camps or other activities that typically involve at least one (1) overnight stay from home.

Administration of Medication with Charter School Assistance

Any student who is or may be required to take, during the regular school day, prescription medication prescribed or ordered for the student by an authorized health care provider may be assisted by the school nurse or designated Charter School personnel.

In order for a student to be assisted by the school nurse or other designated Charter School personnel in administering medication, Charter School shall obtain both:

1. A written statement from the student's authorized health care provider detailing the name of the medication, method, amount/dosage, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken, and
2. A written statement from the parent, foster parent, or guardian of the student indicating the desire that Charter School assist the student in the matters set forth in the statement of the authorized health care provider.

These written statements specified shall be provided at least annually and more frequently if the medication, dosage/amount, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes.

The primary responsibility for the administration of medication rests with the parent/guardian, student, and medical professionals.

Self-Administration of Medication (without Charter School Assistance)

Students will be permitted to self-carry and self-administer prescription medication if an authorized health care provider has indicated that a student may need to take this medication or is required to take this medication during the regular school day. Prescription medication includes an epinephrine delivery system and inhaled asthma medication. In order to carry and self-administer this medication, Charter School must receive the following:

- A written statement from the student’s authorized health care provider (1) detailing the name of the medication, method, dosage/amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken, and (2) confirming that the student is able to self-administer an epinephrine delivery system or inhaled asthma medication, and
- A written statement from the parent, foster parent, or guardian of the student (1) consenting to the self-administration, (2) providing a release for the school nurse or designated Charter School personnel to consult with the health care provider of the student regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication, and (3) releasing Charter School and Charter School personnel from civil liability if the self-administering student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administering medication.

These written statements specified shall be provided at least annually and more frequently if the medication, dosage/amount, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes.

Charter School may elect to observe and document the student’s ability to safely and competently self-carry and self-administer prescription medication as directed by the authorized health care provider. A student may be subject to disciplinary action if the student uses this prescription medication in a manner other than as prescribed.

Any student requiring insulin shots must establish a plan for administration of insulin shots with the Deputy Superintendent of Schools Services (“Deputy Superintendent”) in consultation with the parent or guardian and the student’s medical professional.

Staff Training and Emergency Response

Additional information about staff trainings and the Charter School’s response to emergencies may be located within the Employment Handbook and/or the School Safety Plan.

A. Response to Anaphylactic Reaction

The school nurse or designated personnel may use an epinephrine delivery system to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, an anaphylactic reaction at school or a school activity or program operated by or under contract with Charter School. Charter School will ensure that, at a minimum, it has the appropriate doses of available epinephrine delivery systems for the ages and weights of individuals at the schoolsite and those participating in any childcare program operated by or under the control of Charter School and stored in an accessible location to meet the needs of its students. Charter School will ensure staff properly store, maintain, and restock the epinephrine delivery systems as needed.

Charter School will ensure any designated personnel are appropriately trained regarding the storage and emergency use of an epinephrine delivery system. Adequate training shall include all of the following:

1. Techniques for recognizing symptoms of anaphylaxis.
2. Standards and procedures for the storage, restocking, and emergency use of epinephrine delivery systems.
3. Emergency follow-up procedures, including calling the emergency 911 telephone number and contacting, if possible, the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) and physician.
4. Recommendations on the necessity of instruction and certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

5. Instruction on how to determine which epinephrine delivery system to use, which shall include consideration of the age of the person suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an anaphylactic reaction as a guideline of equivalency for the person's weight determination.

Written materials covering the information required pursuant to the training. A copy of these written materials shall be made accessible, such as through publicly posting at the location of the epinephrine delivery system. Charter School will distribute an annual notice to all staff describing the request for volunteers who will be trained to administer an epinephrine delivery system to a person if that person is suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering from, anaphylaxis. The annual notice shall also describe the training the volunteer will receive and shall indicate the location of the epinephrine delivery systems on campus.

B. Response to a Diabetic or Hypoglycemic Emergency

Charter School provides Charter School personnel with voluntary emergency medical training on how to provide emergency medical assistance to students with diabetes suffering from severe hypoglycemia. The volunteer personnel shall provide this emergency care in accordance with standards established herein and the performance instructions set forth by the licensed health care provider of the student. A Charter School employee who does not volunteer or who has not been trained pursuant to this Policy may not be required to provide emergency medical assistance.

Training by a physician, credentialed school nurse, registered nurse, or certificated public health nurse according to the standards established pursuant to this section shall be deemed adequate training. Training established shall include all of the following:

1. Recognition and treatment of hypoglycemia.
2. Administration of glucagon.
3. Basic emergency follow-up procedures, including, but not limited to, calling the emergency 911 telephone number and contacting, if possible, the student's parent(s)/ guardian(s) and licensed health care provider.

A Charter School employee shall notify the Deputy Superintendent School Services and Founding Director if the employee administers glucagon pursuant to this Policy.

All materials necessary to administer the glucagon shall be provided by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.

In the case of a student who is able to self-test and monitor their own blood glucose level, upon written request of the parent or guardian, and with authorization of the licensed health care provider of the student, a student with diabetes shall be permitted to test their own blood glucose level and to otherwise provide diabetes self-care in the classroom, in any area of the Charter School or Charter School grounds, during any Charter School-related activity, and, upon specific request by a parent or guardian, in a private location.

Designated staff shall establish emergency procedures for specific medical conditions that require an immediate response (i.e. allergies, asthma, diabetes).

C. Response to an Opioid Overdose

Charter School provides Charter School personnel with voluntary emergency medical training on the administration of opioid antagonists to students exhibiting potentially life-threatening symptoms, or

reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose at schools or a school activity. Charter School will ensure staff properly store, maintain, and restock opioid antagonists as needed.

Training shall include all of the following:

- Techniques for recognizing symptoms of an opioid overdose.
- Standards and procedures for the storage, restocking, and emergency use of naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist.
- Basic emergency follow-up procedures, including, but not limited to, a requirement for the school or charter school administrator or, if the administrator is not available, another school staff member to call the emergency 911 telephone number and to contact the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Recommendations on the necessity of instruction and certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Written materials covering the information required pursuant to the training.

The Deputy Superintendent shall distribute an annual notice to all staff regarding volunteering for training to administer opioid antagonists and a volunteer's right to rescind their offer to volunteer.

D. Response to a Seizure, Seizure Disorder, or Epilepsy

Upon receipt of a request by a parent/guardian to administer anti-seizure medication when a student is suffering from a seizure, the Charter School may designate one or more volunteers to receive training to administer the anti-seizure medication. The Charter School may allow non-medical personnel to volunteer to provide medical assistance to students who are diagnosed with seizures, a seizure disorder, or epilepsy if the Charter School does not have a credentialed nurse or other licensed nurse on site. Charter School's volunteer personnel shall provide this emergency care in accordance with standards established herein and the performance instructions set forth by the licensed health care provider of the student. A Charter School employee who does not volunteer or who has not been trained pursuant to this Policy may not be required to provide emergency medical assistance. Volunteer employees are not providing this emergency medical care for compensation, notwithstanding that the employee is a paid public employee.

Upon receipt of the parent/guardian's request, the Charter School shall notify the parent/guardian that their child may qualify for services or accommodations under the Section 504 plan or an individualized education program ("IEP"), assist the parent/guardian with the exploration of that option, and encourage the parent/guardian to adopt that option if it is determined that the child is eligible for a Section 504 plan or an IEP. The Charter School shall obtain a signed notice verifying the parent/guardian was provided this information and has the right to request a Section 504 Plan or IEP at any time. Additionally, if the Charter School does not have any volunteers, then Charter School shall notify the parent/guardian of the student's right to be assessed for a Section 504 plan or an IEP.

Prior to administering emergency anti-seizure medication, Charter School shall obtain annually a signed seizure action plan from the parent/guardian, that includes the parent/guardian's authorization, in writing for the medication to be administered to the student at school by a non-medical professional who has received training, and a copy of a statement, in writing, from the student's health care provider that includes all of the following information:

1. The student's name, the name and purpose of the medication, its prescribed dosage, method of administration and the frequency with which the medication may be administered;
2. Detailed seizure symptoms, including frequency, type, or length of seizures that identify when the administration of an emergency anti-seizure medication becomes necessary;

3. The circumstances under which the medication may be administered;
4. Any potential adverse responses by the student and recommended mitigation actions, including when to call emergency services, including the emergency 911 telephone number;
5. A protocol for observing the student after a seizure, including, but not limited to, whether the student should rest in the school office, whether the student may return to class, and the length of time they should be under direct observation; and
6. How and where the emergency anti-seizure medication will be stored at the school.

This plan shall be distributed to any Charter School personnel or volunteers responsible for the supervision or care of the student if the parent/guardian consents in writing and will be kept in a confidential file in the nurse or Deputy Superintendent or designee's office, as applicable.

Training will occur upon volunteering and thereafter annually at no cost to the employee and will occur during regular working hours. Training will be conducted by an authorized health care professional, all training will align with any minimum standards established by the California Department of Education ("CDE"), and will include:

1. Recognition of the signs and symptoms of seizures and the appropriate steps to be taken to respond to those symptoms;
2. Administration, or assisting with the self-administration of, an emergency anti-seizure medication, or a medication or therapy prescribed to treat the symptoms of seizures, seizure disorders, or epilepsy, including manual vagus nerve stimulation; and
3. Basic emergency follow-up procedures.

Any written materials used in the training shall be retained by the Charter School. Charter School shall ensure that each employee who volunteers to administer anti-seizure medication in good faith will be provided defense and indemnification by Charter School for any and all civil liability barring gross negligence, or willful or wanton misconduct, and this information shall be reduced to writing, provided to the volunteer, and retained in the volunteer's personnel file.

Upon receipt of a parent/guardian's request to administer anti-seizure medication, Charter School shall distribute a notice at least once but no more than two times per school year to all staff that includes all of the following information:

- A description of the volunteer request stating that the request is for volunteers to be trained to recognize and respond to seizures, including training to administer emergency anti-seizure medication to a student diagnosed with seizures, a seizure disorder, or epilepsy if the student is suffering from a seizure;
- A description of the training that the volunteer will receive;
- The right of an employee to rescind their offer to volunteer; and
- A statement that there will be no retaliation against any individual for rescinding the individual's offer to volunteer, including after receiving training.

If a volunteer rescinds the volunteer's offer to volunteer or is no longer able to act as a volunteer for any reason, or if the placement of a student changes and the student no longer has access to a trained volunteer, an additional two notices per school year may be distributed to all staff.

Upon administration of anti-seizure emergency medication by a volunteer employee, the Charter School's nurse shall be notified. If the Charter School does not employ a nurse, Charter School's Deputy Superintendent or designee shall be notified.

Storage and Record Keeping

All medication will be kept in a secure and appropriate storage location and administered per an authorized health care provider's instructions by appropriately designated staff.

Designated staff shall keep records of medication administered at Charter School. The medication log may include the following:

1. Student's name.
2. Name of medication the student is required to take.
3. Dose of medication.
4. Method by which the student is required to take the medication.
5. Time the medication is to be taken during the regular school day.
6. Date(s) on which the student is required to take the medication.
7. Authorized health care provider's name and contact information.
8. A space for daily recording of medication administration to the student or otherwise assisting the student in administration of the medication, such as date, time, amount, and signature of the individual administering the medication or otherwise assisting in administration of the medication.

Designated staff shall return all surplus, discontinued, or outdated medication to the parent/guardian upon completion of the regimen or prior to extended holidays. If the medication cannot be returned, it will be disposed of at the end of the school year.