Title: **Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers**
Code: 210.1
Book: Policy Manual
Section: 200 Pupils

Authority

The Board shall permit students to possess asthma inhalers and to self-administer the prescribed medication used to treat asthma when such is parent-authorized.

Possession and use of asthma inhalers by students shall be in accordance with state law and Board policy.[1]

Definitions

Asthma inhaler shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.[2]

Self-administration shall mean a student's use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Guidelines

Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler during school hours, the Board shall require the following:[1][3]

1. A written request from the parent/guardian that the school complies with the order of the physician, certified registered

nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

2. A statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the district and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.

3. A written statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant that states:

    a. Name of the drug.

    b. Prescribed dosage.

    c. Times medication is to be taken.

    d. Length of time medication is prescribed.

    e. Diagnosis or reason medication is needed, unless confidential.

    f. Potential serious reaction or side effects of medication.

    g. Emergency response.

    h. If child is qualified and able to self-administer the medication.

The student shall be made aware that the asthma inhaler is intended for his/her use only and may not be shared with other students.

The student shall notify the school nurse immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in immediate confiscation of the asthma inhaler and medication and loss of privileges.

The district reserves the right to require a statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period. Permission for possession and use of an asthma inhaler by a student shall be effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.[2]

A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler and self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the capability for self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.[1]

To self-administer medication, the student must be able to:

1. Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.
2. Identify his/her medication.
3. Demonstrate the proper technique for self-administering medication.
4. Sign his/her medication sheet to acknowledge having taken the medication.
5. Demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse(s), shall develop procedures for student possession of asthma inhalers and self-administration of prescribed medication.

The district shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the policy and procedures governing student possession and use of asthma inhalers.

When an asthma inhaler is initially brought to school by a student, the school nurse shall be responsible to complete the following:

1. Obtain the required written request and statements from the parent/guardian and physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, which shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

2. Review pertinent information with the student and/or parent/guardian, specifically the information contained on the statement submitted by the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

3. Determine the student's ability to self-administer medication and the need for care and supervision.

4. Maintain an individual medication log for all students possessing asthma inhalers.

Adopted: **November 15, 2005**

Legal References:

- 1. 24 P.S. 1414.1
- 2. 24 P.S. 1401
- 3. 22 PA Code 7.13