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**516 STUDENT MEDICATION AND TELEHEALTH**

*[Note: The necessary provisions for complying with Minnesota Statutes sections 121A.22, Administration of Drugs and Medicine, and 121A.221, Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers by Asthmatic Students, and 121A.222, Possession and Use of Non-prescription Pain Relievers by Secondary Students are included in this policy. The statutes do not regulate administration of drugs and medicine for students age 18 and over or nonprescription medications. Please note that §121A.22 does not require school districts to apply the administration of medication rule to drugs or medicine used off school grounds, drugs or medicines used in connection with athletics or extra-curricular activities, and drugs and medicines that are used in connection with activities that occur before or after the regular school day.]*

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the provisions that must be followed when administering prescription medication to students at school.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The school district acknowledges that some students may require prescribed drugs or medication or telehealth during the school day. The school district’s licensed school nurse, trained health clerk, principal, or teacher will administer prescribed medications, except any form of medical cannabis, in accordance with law and school district procedures.

**III. DRUG AND MEDICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Administration of Drugs and Medicine**

- 1. Definitions
  - a. “Administer” means the direct application of an epinephrine delivery system to the body of an individual.

- b. "Epinephrine delivery system" means a medication product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration that automatically delivers a single, premeasured dose of epinephrine to prevent or treat a life-threatening allergic reaction.
  - c. "School" means a public school under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 4, or a nonpublic school, excluding a home school, under section 120A.22, subdivision 4, that is subject to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. The administration of medication or drugs at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent/guardian. An oral request must be reduced to writing within two school days, provided that the school district may rely on an oral request until a written request is received.
  3. Drugs and medicine subject to Minnesota Statutes, 121A.22 must be administered, to the extent possible, according to school board procedures that must be developed in consultation with:
    - a. with a licensed nurse, in a district that employs a licensed nurse under Minnesota Statutes, section 148.171;
    - b. with a licensed school nurse, in a district that employs a licensed school nurse licensed under Minnesota Rules, part 8710.6100;
    - c. with a public or private health-related organization, in a district that contracts with a public or private health or health-related organization, according to Minnesota Statutes, 121A.21; or
    - d. with the appropriate party, in a district that has an arrangement approved by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, according to Minnesota Statutes, 121A.21.

4. Exclusions

The provisions on administration of drugs and medicine above do not apply to drugs or medicine that are:

- e. purchased without a prescription;
- f. used by a pupil who is 18 years old or older;
- g. used in connection with services for which a minor may give effective consent;
- h. used in situations in which, in the judgment of the school personnel, including a licensed nurse, who are present or available, the risk to the pupil's life or health is of such a nature that drugs or medicine should be given without delay;

- i. used off the school grounds;
- j. used in connection with athletics or extracurricular activities;
- k. used in connection with activities that occur before or after the regular school day;
- l. provided or administered by a public health agency to prevent or control an illness or a disease outbreak as provided under Minnesota law;
- m. Prescription asthma or reactive airway disease medications can be self-administered by a student with an asthma inhaler if:
  - (1) the school district has received a written authorization each school year from the pupil's parent permitting the student to self-administer the medication;
  - (2) the inhaler is properly labeled for that student; and
  - (3) the parent has not requested school personnel to administer the medication to the student.

In a school that does not have a school nurse or school nursing services, the student's parent or guardian must submit written verification from the prescribing professional which documents that an assessment of the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting has been completed.

If the school district employs a school nurse or provides school nursing services under another arrangement, the school nurse or other appropriate party must assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting and enter into the student's school health record a plan to implement safe possession and use of asthma inhalers.

- n. Epinephrine delivery systems, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 21A.2205, if the parent and prescribing medical professional annually inform the pupil's school in writing that
  - (1) the pupil may possess the epinephrine or
  - (2) the pupil is unable to possess the epinephrine and requires immediate access to epinephrine delivery systems that the parent provides properly labeled to the school for the pupil as needed.

- o. For the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, 121A.22, special health treatments and health functions, such as catheterization, tracheostomy suctioning, and gastrostomy feedings, do not constitute administration of drugs or medicine.
- p. Emergency health procedures, including emergency administration of drugs and medicine are not subject to this policy.

## B. Prescription Medication

1. An “Administering Prescription Medications” form must be completed annually (once per school year) and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs. Prescription medication as used in this policy does not include any form of medical cannabis as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 152.22, Subdivision 6.
2. Prescription medication must come to school in the original container labeled for the student by a pharmacist in accordance with law, and must be administered in a manner consistent with the instructions on the label.
3. The school nurse may request to receive further information about the prescription, if needed, prior to administration of the substance.
4. Prescription medications are not to be carried by the student, but will be left with the appropriate school district personnel. Exceptions to this requirement are: prescription asthma medications self-administered with an inhaler (See Part J.5. below), and medications administered as noted in a written agreement between the school district and the parent or as specified in an IEP (individual education plan), Section 504 plan, or IHP (individual health plan).
5. The school must be notified immediately by the parent/guardian or student 18 years old or older in writing of any change in the student’s prescription medication administration. A new medical authorization or container label with new pharmacy instructions shall be required immediately as well.
6. The school nurse, or other designated person, shall be responsible for the filing of the Medication Log form in the health records section of the student file. The school nurse, or other designated person, shall be responsible for providing a copy of such form to the principal and to other personnel designated to administer the medication
7. For drugs or medicine used by children with a disability, administration may be as provided in the IEP, Section 504 plan or IHP.

8. The District will obtain and possess Narcan (naloxone) to be maintained and administered by trained school staff to a student or other individual if it is determined in good faith that person is experiencing an opioid overdose.
  - a. Minnesota Statute (604A.04) “Good Samaritan Overdose Protection” allows for “A person who is not a healthcare professional who acts in good faith in administering an opiate antagonist to another person whom the person believes in good faith to be suffering an opioid overdose is immune from criminal prosecution for the act and is not liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the act.”
  - b. In accordance with this statute, the individual who is seeking assistance and the individual who is experiencing an overdose have a limited immunity from prosecution.
  - c. The District will obtain a standing order for Narcan (naloxone) by a licensed medical prescriber and update as needed.
  - d. Stock Narcan (naloxone) will be clearly labeled and stored in a secured location that is accessible by trained staff.
  - e. Health Services and School Administration will identify appropriate staff to be trained annually at each school site.

C. Nonprescription Medication

A secondary student may possess and use non-prescription pain relief in a manner consistent with the labeling, if the school district has received a written authorization from the student’s parent or guardian permitting the student to self-administer the medication. The parent or guardian must submit written authorization for the student to self-administer the medication each school year. The school district may revoke a student’s privilege to possess and use non-prescription pain relievers if the school district determines that the student is abusing the privilege. This provision does not apply to the possession or use of any drug or product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as its sole active ingredient or as one of its active ingredients. Except as stated in this paragraph, only prescription medications are governed by this policy.

***[Note: Non-prescription medication, when ordered by a physician or licensed provider, should be provided by the parent/guardian in an original, unopened container and labeled with the student’s name.]***

D. Possession and Use of Epinephrine Delivery Systems

1. At the start of each school year or at the time a student enrolls in school, whichever is first, a student's parent/guardian, school staff, including those responsible for student health care, and the prescribing medical professional must develop and implement an individualized written health plan for a student who is prescribed of epinephrine delivery systems that enables the student to:
  - a. possess epinephrine delivery systems; or
  - b. if the parent/guardian and prescribing medical professional determine the student is unable to possess the epinephrine, have immediate access to epinephrine delivery systems in close proximity to the student at all times during the instructional day.

For the Purposes of this policy, "instructional day" is defined as eight hours for each student contact day.

The plan must designate the school staff responsible for implementing the student's health plan, including recognizing anaphylaxis and administering epinephrine delivery systems when required, consistent with state law. This health plan may be included in a student's § Section 504 plan.

Districts and schools may obtain and possess epinephrine delivery systems to be maintained and administered by school personnel, including a licensed nurse, to a student or other individual if, in good faith, it is determined that person is experiencing anaphylaxis regardless of whether the student or other individual has a prescription for an epinephrine delivery system. The administration of an epinephrine delivery system in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.2207 is not the practice of medicine.

Registered nurses may administer epinephrine delivery systems in a school setting according to a condition-specific protocol as authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 148.235, subdivision 8. Notwithstanding any limitation in Minnesota Statutes, sections 148.171 to 148.285, licensed practical nurses may administer epinephrine delivery systems in a school setting according to a condition-specific protocol that does not reference a specific patient and that specifies the circumstances under which the epinephrine delivery system is to be administered, when caring for a patient whose condition falls within the protocol.

A district or school may enter into arrangements with manufacturers of epinephrine delivery systems to obtain epinephrine delivery systems at fair-market, free, or reduced prices. A third party, other than a manufacturer or supplier, may pay for a school's supply of epinephrine delivery systems.

The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health must provide a district or school with a standing order for distribution of epinephrine

delivery systems under Minnesota Statutes, sections 148.235, subdivision 8 and 151.37, subdivision 2.

E. Sunscreen

A student may possess and apply a topical sunscreen product during the school day while on school property or at a school-sponsored event without a prescription, physician's note, or other documentation from a licensed health care professional. School personnel are not required to provide sunscreen or assist students in applying sunscreen.

**IV. ACCESS TO SPACE FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE THROUGH TELEHEALTH**

- A. Beginning October 1, 2024, to the extent space is available, the school district must provide an enrolled secondary school student with access during regular school hours, and to the extent staff is available, before or after the school day on days when students receive instruction at school, to space at the school site that a student may use to receive mental health care through telehealth from a student's licensed mental health provider. A secondary school must develop a plan with procedures to receive requests for access to the space.
- B. The space must provide a student privacy to receive mental health care.
- C. A student may use a school-issued device to receive mental health care through telehealth if such use is consistent with the district or school policy governing acceptable use of the school-issued device.
- D. A school may require a student requesting access to space under this section to submit to the school a signed and dated consent from the student's parent or guardian, or from the student if the student is age 16 or older, authorizing the student's licensed mental health provider to release information from the student's health record that is requested by the school to confirm the student is currently receiving mental health care from the provider. Such a consent is valid for the school year in which it is submitted.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.21 (School Health Services)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.216 (Access to Space for Mental Health Care through Telehealth)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.22 (Administration of Drugs and Medicine) Minn. Stat. § 121A.2205 (Possession and Use of Epinephrine Delivery Systems; Model Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.2207 (Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools; Stock Supply of Epinephrine Delivery Systems)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.221 (Possession and Use of Asthma Inhalers by Asthmatic Students)

Minn. Stat. § 121A.222 (Possession and Use of Non-prescription Pain Relievers by Secondary Students)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.223 (Possession and Use of Sunscreen)  
Minn. Stat. § 148.171 (Definitions; Title)  
Minn. Stat. § 151.212 (Label of Prescription Drug Containers) Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations)  
Minn. Rule 8710.6100 (School Nurse)  
20 U.S.C. 1400, *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794, *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section § 504)

***Cross References:***

CHPS Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug Free School)