ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

Administering Prescription Drugs to Students

Many students are able to attend school regularly only through effective use of medication in the treatment of disabilities or illnesses that do not hinder the health or welfare of others. If possible, all medication should be given by the parent(s) at home. If this is not possible, it is done in compliance with the following.

1. A prescription drug is a drug that is to be administered pursuant to the instructions of the prescriber, whether or not required by law to be sold only upon a prescription.
2. Only employees of the Board who are licensed health professionals, or who are appointed by the Board and have completed a drug administration training program meeting State law requirements, conducted by a licensed health professional and considered appropriate by the Board, can administer prescription drugs to students.
3. The school nurse or an appropriate person appointed by the Board supervises the secure and proper storage and dispensation of medications. The prescription drug must be received in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or others licensed to prescribe medication.
4. Written permission must be received from the parent(s) of the student, requesting that the school nurse or an appropriate person comply with the physician's order.
5. The school nurse or other designated individual must receive and retain a statement which complies with State law and is signed by the physician who prescribed the prescription drug or other person licensed to prescribe medication.
6. The parent(s) must agree to submit a revised statement, signed by the physician or other licensed individual who prescribed the prescription drug, to the nurse or other designated individual if any of the information originally provided by the physician or licensed individual changes.
7. No employee who is authorized by the Board to administer a prescription drug and who has a copy of the most recent statement is liable in civil damages for administering or failing to administer the prescription drug, unless he/she acts in a manner which would constitute "gross negligence or wanton or reckless misconduct."

Administering Over - the-Counter Drugs to Students

An over-the-counter drug is a drug that may be legally sold without a prescription and that is administered without the instruction of a prescriber.

Authorized employees may, in the course of their employment, administer over-the-counter drugs to students in accordance with procedures developed by the Superintendent/designee. Such procedures must at minimum require parental consent for administration.

These procedures for over-the-counter medications do not apply to care given in the following situations; such situations are managed in accordance with law and any applicable policies and procedures:

1. emergency care occurring at the scene of an emergency outside of a hospital, doctor's office, or other place having proper medical equipment;
2. emergency care administered by a physician, dentist, or nurse volunteering at a school athletic event;
3. emergency care provided in a school district pursuant to an emergency medical authorization submitted by a student's parent or guardian;
4. emergency use of epinephrine delivery systems in a school district pursuant to a school policy regarding their use;
5. diabetes care provided in accordance with an order signed by a student's treating practitioner;
6. emergency use of inhalers in a school district pursuant to a school policy regarding their use and
7. emergency use of injectable or nasally administered narcan in a school district pursuant to a school policy regarding its use.

Religious Convictions

No person employed by the Board is required to administer a prescription or over-the-counter drug to a student except pursuant to requirements established under this policy. The Board shall not require an employee to administer a prescription or over-the-counter drug to a student if the employee objects, on the basis of religious convictions, to administering the drug.

Inhalers for Asthma

Students have the right to possess and use a metered-dose inhaler or a dry-powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms. The right applies at school or at any activity, event or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant.

In order for a student to possess the inhaler, he/she must have written approval from the student's physician and parent or other caretaker. The principal and/or the school nurse must have received copies of these required written approvals.

Epinephrine Delivery Systems

Students are permitted to carry and use an epinephrine delivery system to treat anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions). The right to carry and use an epinephrine delivery system extends to any activity, event or program sponsored by the student's school or activity, event or program in which the school participates.

Student possession of an epinephrine delivery system is permitted only if the student has written approval from the prescriber of the medication and, if a minor, from his/her parent. Written approval must be on file with the principal and, if one is assigned, the school nurse. In

addition, the principal or school nurse must receive a backup dose of the medication from the parent or student.

Diabetes Medication

If a student's treating physician determines a student with diabetes is capable of performing diabetes care tasks, the student is permitted to attend to the self-care and management of his/her diabetes during regular school hours, and at school-sponsored activities upon written request from the student's parent/guardian or other person having care or charge of the student. Students may perform these tasks in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-sponsored activity. Students are permitted to possess, at all times, the necessary supplies and equipment to perform the tasks in accordance with the student's treating physician's orders. This right may be revoked if the student performs any care tasks or uses medical equipment for purposes other than the student's own care. The student is provided with a private area for performing self-care tasks if requested by the student, student's parent/guardian or other person having care or charge of the student.

Seizure Medication

If a student has an active seizure disorder diagnosis, the school nurse will need to be provided an individualized action plan from the prescribing Physician in accordance with State law. The action plan must include information on how to administer prescribed seizure drugs to the student and school districts must designate at least one employee in each school building aside from a school nurse to be trained every two years on implementing seizure action plans, including training in administering seizure drugs.

Prescription drugs prescribed for a seizure disorder that are to be administered to students may be kept in an easily accessible location.

Students are allowed to possess seizure medications at school or at any activity, event or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant, if the student has the written approval of the student's physician containing all information required by law and, if the student is a minor, the written approval of the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student. The school principal and, if a school nurse is assigned to the student's school building, the school nurse, must receive copies of the written approvals.

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Ohio Administrative Code

OAC 3301-35-06	Educational programs and support

Ohio Revised Code

ORC 2305.23	Liability for emergency care
ORC 2305.231	Civil immunity for architects, contractors, engineers, surveyors, and tradespersons providing volunteer services
ORC 3313.64	Entitlement to attend school; district of attendance
ORC 3313.7112	Diabetes care
ORC 3313.7117	Individualized seizure action plans
ORC 3313.712	Emergency medical authorization
ORC 3313.713	District prescription drug distribution policy
ORC 3313.716	Possession and use metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms
ORC 3313.718	Possession and use of epinephrine autoinjector to treat anaphylaxis
ORC 3314.03	Specifications of contract between sponsor and governing authority - specifications of comprehensive plan
ORC 3314.141	No civil liability for prohibition of use of autoinjector

Cross References

Code	
EBBA	First Aid
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EBC	Emergency Management and Safety Plans
EBC	Emergency Management and Safety Plans
EF / EFB	Food Services Management/Free and Reduced-Price Food Services
EFH	Food Allergies
JFCH / JFCI	Alcohol Use by Students/Student Drug Abuse
JHC	Student Health Services and Requirements