

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Each school principal shall authorize two staff members to administer prescribed or over-the-counter oral medication. Oral medications are administered by mouth either by swallowing or inhaling. These designated staff members will participate in an in-service training session conducted by an ESA certificated school nurse prior to the opening of school each year.

Prescribed or over-the-counter oral medication may be dispensed to students on a scheduled basis upon written authorization from a parent with a written request and instructions from a licensed practitioner with prescriptive authority. Requests shall be valid for not more than the current school year. The prescribed or over-the-counter medication must be properly labeled and be contained in the original container. The trained staff members who dispense prescribed or over-dispenser of prescribed or non-prescribed oral medication shall:

- A. Collect the medication directly from the parent (students should not transport medication to school), collect an authorization and instruction form properly signed by the parent and by the prescribing licensed practitioner;
- B. Store the prescription or over-the-counter oral medication (not more than a four- [4] week supply) in a locked, substantially constructed facility; and
- C. Maintain a daily record that indicates that the prescribed or over-the-counter oral medication was dispensed.
- D. Provide for supervision by an ESA certificated school nurse.

No prescribed medication shall be administered by injection by staff except when a student is susceptible to a predetermined, life-endangering situation. The parent shall submit a written statement which grants a staff member the authority to act according to the specific written orders and supporting directions provided by a physician (e.g., medication administered to counteract a reaction to a bee sting). Such medication shall be administered by staff trained to administer such an injection.

Written orders for emergency medication, signed and dated, from the prescribing licensed practitioner shall:

- A. State that the student suffers from an allergy that may result in an anaphylactic reaction;
- B. Identify the drug, the mode of administration, and the dose. Epinephrine administered by an automatic-administration device (such as Epi-pen) is the only acceptable form of injectable epinephrine in the school setting. Non-nurse school staff are more comfortable with and therefore more likely to use these devices. In addition, the training by the school nurse is less complicated because the nurse does not have to train school staff in the use of syringes. Though the device is designed for self-administration, most students

may be too young or too ill to self-administer the epinephrine and, hence, the necessity to train all school staff who will be monitoring the student's symptoms during the school day in the use of the device. Epinephrine administered by inhalation, rather than injection, may be a treatment option. This decision must be made by the physician;

- C. Indicate when the injection shall be administered based on anticipated symptoms or time lapse from exposure to the allergen;
- D. Recommend follow-up after administration, which may include care of the stinger, administration of additional medications, transport to hospital; and
- E. Specify how to report to the physician and any record keeping recommendations.

Medications administered other than orally may only be administered by a registered or licensed practical nurse, family member, or self-administered by the student.

If a licensed practitioner with prescriptive authority, physician or dentist, and a student's parent request that a student be permitted to carry his/or her own medication and/or be permitted to self-administer medication, the principal may grant permission after consulting with the school nurse. The process for requesting and providing instructions shall be the same as established for oral medications. The principal and nurse shall take into account the age maturity and capability of the student; the nature of the medication; the circumstances under which the student will or may have to self-administer the medication, and other issues relevant in the specific case before authorizing a student to carry and/or self-administer medication at school. Except in the case of multi-dose devices (like asthma inhalers), students shall only carry one day's supply of medication at a time. Violations of any condition placed on the student permitted to carry and/or self-administer his or her own medication may result in termination of that permission as well as the imposition of discipline when appropriate.