

File: J52

DISPENSATION OF MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Medication may not be administered to students while at school unless such medicine is given to them by the school nurse acting under a written, signed, and dated request with instructions for dispensing medication from the student's physician, or other licensed prescriber, and a written, signed, and dated request from the parent/guardian (see below for exceptions). For prescription medications requiring administration for, 10 school days or fewer, the pharmacy container may be used in lieu of the physician's, or licensed prescriber's order. If the nurse has a question, he/she may request a physician's, or licensed prescriber's order.

All students receiving medications in school must also have an individualized medication plan completed by the school nurse and documentation in an electronic medication log which is part of the student's electronic health record.

Prescription medication must be in the original pharmacy container, labeled with the student's name, the physician's, or licensed prescriber's name, the name of the medicine, the dose, the time of day, and the dates to be administered. Non-prescription medication must be presented in the original container. All medicines must be kept in the nurse's office (see below for exceptions). No more than a 30 day supply of medication for a student shall be stored in school. Medication must be hand delivered by an adult to the nurse in order for that medicine to be dispensed to a student.

In extenuating circumstances, as determined by the school nurse, the medication may be delivered by other persons, provided that the nurse is notified in advance by the parent or guardian of the arrangement and the quantity of medication being delivered to the school.

The first dose of any new medication must be administered at home with the parent/guardian observing the student for any adverse effects. Under no circumstances will the first dose of any medication be given at school.

Medication given on a daily basis as part of a student's educational program, which is covered by M.G.L. Chapter 94C the Controlled Substances Act, must be dispensed only by an R.N. or L.P.N.

Exceptions

- The district may stock epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPen) and shall, through the Supervisor of Nurses, register with the Department of Public Health and train personnel in the use of epinephrine auto-injectors.
- The district may, in conjunction with the School Physician and the Supervisor of Nurses, stock nasal naloxone (Narcan) and trained medical personnel and first responders may administer nasal naloxone to individuals experiencing a life threatening opiate overdose in a school setting.
- Following consultation with the school nurse, students who fall into the following exceptions may self-administer medications:

- Students with asthma or other respiratory diseases may possess and administer prescription inhalers.
- Students with life-threatening allergies may possess and administer epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPen).
- Students with cystic fibrosis may possess and administer prescription enzyme supplements.
- Students with diabetes may possess and administer glucose monitoring tests and insulin delivery systems.

Additionally the school nurse will maintain an updated “Health Concerns List” and an updated “daily” medication schedule and file same with the Principal at the beginning of each school year. Information from this list pertinent to each classroom teacher will also be supplied to them by the school nurse.

Possession and distribution of prescription and over-the-counter medicine not used in a prescribed manner or not adhering to this Dispensation of Medication in School policy which requires all students to store any medication, except for EPI Pens and inhalers, in the nurse’s office is a violation of the school’s code of conduct.

Prescription Medication Administration during Field Trips

1. The School Principal shall notify the School Nurse when field trips are being arranged.
2. School Nurse may delegate prescription medication administration to another trained responsible adult.
3. Written consent from the parent or guardian for the named responsible adult to administer the medication shall be obtained.
4. Written consent from the parent or guardian for the administration of emergency drugs (i.e., EpiPen, asthma inhalers) shall include emergency phone numbers, emergency transportation information and conditions under which medication should be administered.
5. The School Nurse shall instruct the responsible adult on how to administer the medication to the student.

Legal Refs.: M.G.L. 71:54B
Department of Public Health Regulations: 105 CMR 210.00; 244 CMR 3.00

1st Reading: Reg SC Mtg 7/20/2016

2nd Reading: Reg SC Mtg 8/17/2016