

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

The Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of pupil illness. The administration of medication to a pupil during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the pupil, or the pupil would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available to him/her during school hours.

For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicines prescribed by a physician for that particular pupil, including emergency medication in the event of bee stings, etc., and all non-prescription "over the counter" medication.

Before any medication may be administered to or by any pupil during school hours, the Board shall give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication. In addition, the Board requires the written order of the prescribing physician which shall include:

1. The purpose of the medication;
2. The dosage;
3. The time at which or the special circumstances under which medication shall be administered;
4. The length of time for which medication is prescribed;
5. The possible side effects of the medication.

Both documents shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse.

The district medical inspector shall develop procedures for the administration of medication which provide that:

1. All medication, whether prescribed or over the counter, shall be administered by the school nurse, the parent/guardian or the pupil himself/herself where the parent/guardian so permits and the school nurse is present;
2. Medications shall be securely stored and kept in the original labeled container;
3. The school nurse shall maintain a record of the name of the pupil to whom medication may be administered, the prescribing physician, the dosage and timing of medication and a notation of each instance of administration;
4. All medications shall be brought to school by the parent/guardian or adult pupil and shall be picked up at the end of the school year or the end of the period of medication, whichever is earlier;
5. A student may self-administer medication without supervision of the school nurse for asthma or other life-threatening illnesses. "Life-threatening illness" has been defined as an illness or condition that requires an immediate response to specific symptoms or sequelae that if left untreated may lead to potential loss of life such as, but not limited to, the use of an inhaler to treat an asthma attack or the use of and adrenalin injection to treat a potential anaphylactic reaction.

Pupil Self-Administration of Medication

The Board shall permit self-administration of medication for asthma or other potentially life-threatening illnesses by pupils in grade 1 through 12 both on school premises during regular school hours and off-site or after regular school hours when a pupil is participating in field trips or extracurricular activities.

Parents/guardians of the pupil must meet the following conditions:

1. Provide the Board with written authorization for the pupil's self-administration of medication;
2. Provide written certification from the pupil's physician that the pupil has asthma or another potentially life-threatening illness and is capable of and has been instructed in the proper method of self-administration of medication;

3. Sign a statement acknowledging that the district shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the pupil and that the parents/guardians shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or agents against any claims arising out of the self-administration of medication by the pupil.

The Board shall:

1. Inform the pupil and his/her parents/guardians that permission is effective for the school year for which it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year upon fulfillment of requirements listed above;
2. Inform parents/guardians in writing that the district and its employees or agents shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication;
3. Maintain the right to revoke a pupil's permission to self-medicate if he/she has failed to comply with all conditions of this policy and/or has violated in any way the tenets of the agreement to self-medicate. The Chief School Administrator shall confer with the school physician and school nurse prior to recommending termination of a pupil's permission to self-medicate and shall also consult with the pupil, the pupil's parents/guardians and the pupil's physician.

Emergency Administration of Epinephrine

The Board shall permit the school nurse or medical inspector to administer epinephrine via a pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism in emergency situations. In their absence, a designee or designees who are employees of the Board may do so.

The designee must be properly trained by the school nurse in the administration of the pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism containing epinephrine using the standardized training protocol designated by the State Department of Education. Each designee shall receive individual training for each pupil for whom he/she is designated.

The Board shall inform the pupil's parents/guardians in writing that if the specified procedures are followed, the district, its employees and agents shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from the administration of the epinephrine to the pupil.

Parents/guardians shall provide the Board with the following:

1. Written orders from the physician that the pupil requires the administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis and does not have the capability for self-administration of the medication;
2. Written permission for the administration of medication of epinephrine via a pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism
3. A signed statement acknowledging their understanding that if the specific procedures are followed, the district shall have no liability as a result of any injury arising from the administration of the epinephrine by the school nurse or designee(s) to the pupil and that the district, its employees, and agents shall be indemnified and held harmless against any claims arising out of the administration of the epinephrine to the pupil.

Permission for the administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism shall be granted annually and must be renewed each school year upon the fulfillment of the above requirements.

Asthma Policy

According to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3 each school in the district shall have and maintain for the use of pupils at least one nebulizer in the office of the school nurse or a similar location. Each certified school nurse or other persons authorized to administer asthma medication will receive training in airway management and in the use of nebulizers and inhalers consistent with State Department of Education regulations. Every pupil that is authorized to use asthma medication or a nebulizer must have an asthma treatment plan prepared by the pupil's physician which shall identify, at a minimum, asthma triggers, the treatment plan and other such elements as required by the Department of Education.

Date Adopted: 9/5/79

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