

## **GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION**

It is recognized that medications may be essential for some students. When possible, all medications should be administered at home. This is especially true for medications administered less than four times per day. **If medication must be given at school, the following procedures are required:**

1. All medications given at school must be U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved **for the medical diagnosis**.
  - a. Substances not to be given at school are all unregulated products, including oils, herbs, food and supplements, which are being used as treatments, dietary supplements, or folk remedies.
  - b. No IV access will be started, flushed, maintained, or discontinued at school. No medications will be permitted via central venous catheter or peripheral intravenous central catheters (PICC lines or central lines) including antineoplastic agents, investigational drugs, total parenteral nutrition (TPN), blood or blood products, emergency medications, or antibiotics.
2. **Oral over the counter or sample drugs** will be dispensed only when accompanied by written orders from a physician, APRN, or PA and must be U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved for the medical diagnosis. Students may not carry medications at school.
  - a. Medication is always to remain in the container in which it was purchased and must be unopened when received by the school.
  - b. Written parental authorization is needed for all drugs.
  - c. Cough drops will be treated as an over-the-counter medication.
  - d. Possession of drugs of any kind may lead to serious disciplinary action.
3. **No prescription narcotic analgesics, opioids or cannabinoids** are to be dispensed at school. The side effects make it unsafe for students to attend school while medicated with narcotics.
4. A signed statement by the parent/guardian requesting the administration of medication must accompany all medication and supplies. The Parent Authorization for Administration of Medication form must be completed before receipt of the medication.
  - a. New authorization forms will be required when any changes with the orders occur.
  - b. All medication/procedure forms must be updated annually.
5. Medication must be sent to school by a parent/guardian.
  - a. It is not safe for children to deliver medicine to and from school.
  - b. This policy prevents safety concerns of lost or stolen medicines, students sharing medicines with friends, and students taking medicine unsupervised.
6. Medication must be in the original prescription container with the: 1) name of drug, 2) date prescribed, 3) dosage prescribed, and 4) time of day to be taken, any special directions, with student's and physician, APRN, or PA names clearly printed.
  - a. Medication must remain in the container in which it was originally dispensed.
  - b. Most pharmacies will provide an extra empty labeled bottle for parents if requested when the prescription is filled. A separate prescription bottle should be provided for field trips.
  - c. No more than a month's supply of controlled medication may be brought in at a time.
  - d. All new prescription refills must remain in the original container with the current expiration date.
  - e. No medications over 30 days will be administered.
7. All medications and/or supplies received must be documented with the parent/guardian, employee, and witness on the Medication and Supply Intake Form (SB 87031).
  - a. Medication must be counted by a parent/guardian. This count will be verified by a school staff.
  - b. The amount and date received are to be recorded.
  - c. The parent/guardian is also required to sign Medication and Supply Intake Form when picking up medication/supplies.

**GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION (cont.)**

8. The parent/guardian should arrange for a separate supply of medication for the school.
  - a. Medication will not be transported between home and school.
    - i. Exceptions by Florida statutes 1002.20(h)(i)(j)(k) *which require a Parent Self Administration Form and a Physician Self Administration Form for:* asthma inhalers, EpiPens, pancreatic enzyme supplements, and diabetes supplies and equipment.
9. When any medications are added or discontinued, a new authorization form is required.
10. When medication dosages or times are changed, a new signed authorization form with the correct information must be completed and a new label from the pharmacist or physician, APRN, or PA order/prescription indicating the change must be sent to the school.
  - a. A fax is acceptable.
11. Medication will **always be stored in a locked cabinet at the school**.
  - a. Exceptions by statutes are asthma inhalers, EpiPens, pancreatic enzyme supplements, and diabetic supplies and equipment. Students who self-carry require a Parent Self Administration Form and a Physician Self Administration Form.
12. Since many students receive medication during school hours, a school district employee designated by the principal will administer medication.
  - a. The designated employee must be trained by the Registered Professional School Nurse as required by Florida law. This includes HOST, field trips, and when the student is away from school property on official school business.
  - b. The medication container with pharmacy label/supplies and copies of paperwork will be sent with the trained staff member, agency nurse, or HOST staff personnel. All medications must be signed out and recorded on the Field Trip Medication Sign Out Sheet (SB 86900).
  - c. Under no circumstances may medication be transferred from one container to another by anyone other than a Registered Pharmacist with the exception of field trips which must be done by the Registered Nurse. Registered Nurses preparing for field trips should choose one of the following options: send medication in original container or transfer to a medication envelope with a copy of the original medication label attached.
13. Liquid medication will be given in a calibrated measuring device **supplied by the parent**.
  - a. Pill crushers, soft food for mixing, and special drinks **must be provided by the parent**.
14. All medications/supplies must be removed from the school premises **within one week of the expiration date**, upon appropriate notification of medication being discontinued, or at the end of the school year.
  - a. Medications/supplies that are unused and unclaimed will be destroyed following proper disposal procedures.
15. Planning and protocols for any medication or treatment which requires a one-time dosage for a specific intent are the responsibility of the Registered Nurse, **ONLY**.
16. Non-medicated sunscreen and insect repellent may be administered without a prescription, but a parent/guardian authorization form must be completed.

Florida Statute 1006.062 is the reference for the above guidelines.

Questions regarding these procedures should be directed to the Registered Nurse assigned to the school your child attends or to the office of School Health Services, 273-7020.