

MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pupils: 200

Administrative Regulations: 210.1-AR

210.1-AR POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS AND EPINEPHRENINE AUTO-INJECTORS

I. Guidelines

A. Nursing Implications for Asthma/Allergy Self-Care

1. The school nurse will complete an Individualized Health Care Plan.
 - a. The school nurse will obtain a complete health history on the student from the parent(s)/guardian(s) providing information regarding the student's past medical history, the name of the primary care provider/licensed prescriber and medications if applicable.
 - b. The school nurse will perform a baseline assessment of the student's health status. The school nurse will ensure that the student is competent in self-care through demonstration of administration skills and responsible behavior.
2. The licensed school nurse shall provide an assessment of the student's self-management skills periodically, minimally on annual renewal of medication orders.
3. Notification of the licensed school nurse immediately following each use of rescue inhaler or Epinephrine auto-injector.
4. The school nurse will train staff members as needed in the administering or the supervising of the self-administration of emergency medication for asthma/allergic reaction as part of first aid preparedness depending on the needs of individual students.

B. Student Self-Administration of Emergency Medications for Asthma/Allergic Reactions

1. An AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS form (see Board Policy No. 210) completed by a licensed prescriber, including a statement that it is necessary for the student to carry the medication in school and that the student is capable of self-administration. The form must indicate the student's name, name of the medication, the dosage, indications for use, possible side effects, any special care needed for the medication, the termination date for administering the medication and the prescriber's signature. This request is valid for one school year.
2. A written parental/guardian consent form must be kept on file for individual students yearly.
3. The student requiring self-administered emergency medication must demonstrate the ability to:

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- a. Identify his/her medication. Medication must be labeled with student's name and name of medication.
 - b. Describe why, how, where and when medication is to be used according to prescription.
 - c. Demonstrate the administration of the prescribed medication and dosage correctly.
 - d. Demonstrate a cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration.
 - e. Describe the location of medication and be able to secure it from loss or theft.
4. The medication will be confiscated and the student will lose self-administration privileges if the school policies are abused or ignored. If privileges are revoked, the Individualized Health Care Plan would need to be revised to ensure availability of the medication to the student. Classroom teachers will be notified of the emergency medication storage location in the school nurses office and the means to access that medication if needed.
5. It is the student's responsibility to notify the school nurse immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler or Epinephrine auto-injector.
- a. Positive symptoms of respiratory distress (wheezing, shortness of breath, uncontrollable coughing, cyanosis, chest retractions, nostril flaring, a pulse oxygen level below 93%) are considered a medical emergency, therefore if the student's respiratory status does not improve within 20 minutes, the parent/guardian will be called and the student excluded from school. The parent/guardian will be advised to consult with their physician for further advice.
 - b. If the parent/guardian is unable to be contacted in a reasonable amount of time the school nurse will activate the EMS and the student will be transported to an emergency care facility.
 - c. If the epinephrine auto-injector is administered, 911 must be called immediately. The individual should be transported by ambulance even if symptoms subside after receiving the epinephrine. The medication may need to be repeated in twenty minutes if the symptoms do not reverse.

Established: 1/11/2012