

Administering Medicines to Students – Asthma Inhaler Exemption

Any school employee authorized in writing by the school administrator or school principal:

1. May assist in the self-administration of any drug that may lawfully be sold over the counter without a prescription to a pupil in compliance with the written instructions, if the pupil's parent or guardian consents in writing.
2. May assist in the self-administration of a prescription drug to a pupil in compliance with the written instructions of a practitioner, if the pupil's parent or guardian consents in writing.

No employee except a qualified health care professional may administer a drug or prescription drug to a pupil under this policy except in an emergency situation. Diagnosis and treatment of illness and the prescribing of drugs are never the responsibility of a school employee and should not be practiced by any school personnel.

Administering Medication

The Board will permit the administration of medication to students in schools in its jurisdiction. Pursuant to the written authorization of a physician or dentist, as well as the written authorization of a parent or guardian, the school nurse (who has successfully completed specific training in administration of medication) may administer medication to any student in the school or may delegate this task pursuant to Idaho law.

Emergency Administration of Medication

In case of an anaphylactic reaction or the risk of such reaction, a school nurse or delegate may administer emergency oral and/or injectable medication to any student in need thereof on the school grounds, in the school building, or at a school function, according to the standing order of the chief medical advisor or the student's private physician.

In the absence of a school nurse, the administrator or designated staff member exempt from the nurse licensure requirements (I.C. § 54-1401 et seq.) who has completed training in administration of medication, may give emergency medication to students orally or by injection. There must be on record a medically diagnosed allergic condition which would require prompt treatment to protect the student from serious harm or death.

Record of the medication administered in an emergency will be entered on an Individual Student Medication Record and filed in the student's cumulative health folder.

Self-Administration of Medication

Students who are able to self-administer specific medication may do so provided:

1. A physician or dentist provides a written order for self-administration of said medication.
2. There is written authorization for self-administration of medication from the student's parent or guardian.
3. The principal and appropriate teachers are informed that the student is self-administering prescribed medication.

Self-Administration of Asthma Medication

Pursuant to Idaho Code covering the self-administration of Asthma medication, if a parent or legal guardian chooses to have his/her child self-medicate:

1. The parents or guardians of the pupil shall provide to the school board or designee written authorization for the self-administration of medication.
2. The parents or guardians of the pupil shall provide to the school board or designee written certification from the physician of the pupil that the pupil has asthma or another potentially life-threatening respiratory illness and is capable of, and has been instructed in, the proper method of self-administration of medication. Such physician or health care provider-supplied information shall contain:
 - a) the name and purpose of the medicine;
 - b) the prescribed dosage;
 - c) the time(s) at which or the special circumstances under which medication should be administered;
 - d) the length of time for which medication is prescribed; and
 - e) the possible side-effects of the medicine.
3. Actions to take in the event of an emergency, including if the medication does not improve the child's breathing.
 - a) Contact information for the physician and parent/guardian
 - b) List of the child's asthma triggers

The board or board designee will inform the parents or guardians of the pupil 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 by the pupil, absent any negligence by the district, its employees or its agents, or as a result of providing all relevant information provided pursuant to subdivisions of this subsection with the school nurse, absent any negligence by the district, its employees or its agents, or in the absence of such nurse, to the school administrator;

The parents or guardians of the pupil shall 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 or 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; and

As used in this section:

1. "Medication" means a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms, prescribed by a physician and having an individual label; and
2. "Self-administration" means a student's use of medication pursuant to prescription or written direction from a physician.
3. A student who is permitted to self-administer asthma medication pursuant to this section shall be permitted to possess and use a prescribed inhaler at all times.

Any school employee authorized in writing by the school administrator or principal may assist with self-administration of medications provided that only the following acts are used:

1. verbal suggestions, prompting, reminding, gesturing, or providing a written guide for self-administering medications;
2. handing a pre-filled, labeled medication holder, labeled unit dose container, syringe, or original marked, labeled container from the pharmacy to the student;
3. opening the lid of the above container for the student;
4. guiding the hand of the student to self-administer the medication;
5. holding and assisting the student in drinking fluid to assist in the swallowing of oral medications;
6. assisting with removal of a medication from a container for students with a physical disability which prevents independence in the act.

Handling and Storage of Medications

All medications, excluding those approved for keeping by students for self medication, must first be delivered by the parent or other responsible adult to the nurse or employee assisting with the self-administration of medication. The nurse or the employee must:

1. Examine any new medication to insure that it is properly labeled with dates, name of student, medication name, dosage and physician's name.
2. If administration is necessary, the nurse must develop a medication administration plan for the student before any medication is given by school personnel.

3. Record on the Student's Individual Medication Record the date the medication is delivered and the amount of medication received.
4. Store medication requiring refrigeration at 36F - 46F.
5. Store prescribed medicinal preparations in a securely locked storage compartment, excluding those medications approved for self-administration. Controlled substances will be contained in a separate compartment, secured and locked at all times.

No more than a forty-five (45) school day supply of a medication for a student will be stored at the school. All medications, prescription and nonprescription, will be stored in their original containers.

Access to all stored medication will be limited to persons authorized to administer medications or assist in the self-administration of medications. Each school will maintain a current list of those persons authorized by delegation from a licensed nurse to administer medications.

Disposal of Medication

School personnel must either return to the parent or destroy (with permission of the parent or guardian) any unused, discontinued or obsolete medication. Medicine which is not repossessed by the parent or guardian within a seven (7) day period of notification by school authorities will be destroyed by the school nurse in the presence of a witness.

Policy History:

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Revised on: