

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TREATMENT OF STUDENTS

The BOCES authorizes emergency first aid medical treatment to be rendered (by the school nurse where possible). A parent or guardian of the child will be promptly notified.

Administration of Medication

The school's registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse may administer medication to a student during school hours under certain conditions. (For the purpose of this policy "medication" includes prescription and non-prescription). Per New York State Education Department (NYSED) requirements, the BOCES must receive the following before medication is given to a student:

- a) The original written order from the student's physician stating the name of the medication, precise dosage, frequency and time of administration;
- b) A written, signed consent from the student's parent or legal guardian requesting the administration of the medication, as prescribed by the physician, to the student in BOCES; and
- c) The medication, properly labeled in its original container, must be delivered to the School Health Office by the student's parent or legal guardian or parental or guardian designated adult. (The term "properly labeled" in the context of this policy means that the container must include the following information: the student's name, name of medication, dosage, frequency and prescribing physician). A student is not permitted to carry any medication on his/her person in school, or on the school bus, or keep any medication in his/her school locker(s). Exceptions to this policy, permitting an independent student to self-carry and self-administer medication with a provider's attestation and parent's permission include the following: inhaled respiratory rescue medication, epinephrine auto-injector, or insulin, glucagon and related diabetes management supplies, and any other medications requiring rapid administration (on approval by the District with appropriate documentation). For students diagnosed with diabetes who independently carry and use their own diabetic medication and supplies must also provide a written diabetes management plan developed by a an authorized health care provider, school health personnel and the parent/person in parental relation that specifies how the student will manage their diabetes in school, including detailed information for treatment of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia by school personnel if the student is unable to do so independently, blood glucose range and insulin coverage scale or correctional factor orders used by a licensed health care professional, if available.
- d) A school nurse may accept a verbal order of attestation from the provider while awaiting a written order. During such time, the student will be allowed to carry and use their medication as the required attestation is "in process" and should be received within 2 to four weeks from date of request.

All medication orders must be reviewed annually or whenever there is a change in dosage.

Procedures governing the BOCES receipt, storage and disposal of medication, as well as those pertaining to the administration of medication to a student after school hours and/or off school grounds during a BOCES-sponsored activity will be in accordance with NYSED guidelines.

Emergency Medication

The administration of emergency medication (injectable, including "epi-pens," and/or oral) to a student for extreme hypersensitivity may be performed by a school staff member or licensed practical nurse responding to an emergency situation when such use has been prescribed by a licensed prescriber. However, a registered professional nurse/nurse practitioner/physician/physician's assistant *must* have trained the staff member to administer the emergency medication for that particular emergency situation (e.g., "epi-pen") and given him/her approval to assist the student in the event of an emergency anaphylactic reaction. Such a response would fall under the Good Samaritan exemption for rendering emergency care during a life threatening situation.

Use of Asthma Inhalers

A student may carry and use an asthma inhaler if the School Health Office has on file a prescriber's attestation that the student is able to independently use and carry their inhaler with signed parent/person in parental relation consent and the physician's written order/diagnosis that the student has a severe asthma condition and may be subject to sudden and debilitating asthmatic attacks. Upon written request of the student's parent or legal guardian, the BOCES must allow a student to maintain an extra asthma inhaler in the care and custody of the school's registered professional nurse. (BOCES is **not required** to hire a registered professional nurse solely for the purpose of maintaining a spare inhaler or to ensure that a registered professional nurse is available at all times in a school building for such purpose).

Blood Glucose Monitoring

Children with diabetes have the right to care for their diabetes at school in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which provide protection against discrimination for children with disabilities, including diabetes.

Accordingly, blood glucose monitoring must be allowed in the school setting at any time, within any place, and by anyone necessitating such testing. Children must receive assistance if needed with the procedure. Where there is a prescriber attestation that the student is able to independently use and carry their diabetes medication and monitoring supplies, with parent consent, the student must be permitted to carry them.

The school nurse shall oversee any arrangements that need to be made for testing and a system to report the results to the nurse as needed. Proper arrangements should be made for the disposal of sharps.

Non-Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers

Non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers are considered over-the-counter (OTC) drugs by the United States Food and Drug Administration. However, due to the fact that careful hand-washing and sanitation is the most effective way to control the recent spread of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) in schools, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has allowed a medical exemption to the requirements for OTC preparations in the school setting to permit the use of non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

The BOCES Medical Director may approve and permit the use of non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers in BOCES without a physician's order. Parents may provide written notification to the school in the event that they do not wish to have their child use this product.

It should be noted that hand sanitizers which contain alcohol are no longer allowed in the school setting.

Sunscreen

Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun may cause sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer, especially exposure in the first fifteen (15) years of life. Although the FDA technically considers sunscreen an over-the-counter drug which would require a doctor's prescription in addition to parental permission, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has issued an updated guidance document that will allow the use of sunscreen without a physician's order.

The BOCES allows students to carry and use sunscreen in school if:

- a) The sunscreen is used for the purpose of avoiding overexposure to the sun and not for medical treatment of an injury or illness;
- b) The sunscreen is approved by the FDA for over-the-counter use; and
- c) The student's parent or guardian provides written permission for the student to carry and use sunscreen.

A student who is unable to physically apply sunscreen may be assisted by unlicensed personnel when directed to do so by the student, if permitted by a parent/guardian and authorized by the school. Parents/guardians are responsible for providing the sunscreen to be used at school.

Disposal of Unused Medication

Any unused medication (including, but not limited to expired prescription and nonprescription drugs) must be returned to the parent/guardian by the end of each school year. If the parent/guardian does not retrieve the unused medication by the end of the school year, then the School Nurse or designated School Health Office personnel must document that the medication was abandoned and dispose of the unused medication.

Stocking Albuterol Metered-Dose Inhalers (MDIs)

In order to reduce the frequency of absences for students with asthma in the schools, the BOCES has determined that it will stock albuterol metered dose inhalers (MDIs) and/or liquid albuterol for use in a nebulizer for students diagnosed with asthma whose personal prescription albuterol supplies are empty.

Students utilizing a school's stock albuterol will need to provide a patient specific order for albuterol from their own private health provider, including an order permitting the student to utilize the school's stock albuterol. Stock albuterol may only be utilized when the school nurse is available to administer the medication.

The student's parent/guardian must provide the school with written permission allowing his/her child to be administered the school's stock albuterol in the event that the student's own prescription albuterol supply is empty.

All equipment used to deliver albuterol to a student will be cleaned and labeled with the student's own name and used solely by that individual student. (Examples of equipment to be cleaned are nebulizer tubing, facemask, mouthpiece, spacer, etc.)

The BOCES will develop Administrative Regulations to address the following:

- a) How stock albuterol will be obtained from a licensed pharmacy and replaced by the district;
- b) How the school's stock MDI and nebulizer, as well as individual student's nebulizer tubing, facemask and/or MDIs and spacers, will be cleaned and maintained; and
- c) The protocol for informing a parent/guardian that the school's stock albuterol has been utilized by the student and that it is necessary for the parent/guardian to bring in replacement albuterol for his/her child.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 [Public Law 108-446 Section 614(a)]

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 United States Code (USC) Sections 1400 et seq.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 United States Code (USC) Section 794 et seq.

Education Law Sections 902(b), 916, 6527(4)(a) and 6908(1)(a)(iv)

Public Health Law Section 3000-a

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #6400 -- Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions

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