



MANAGING MEDICINES IN SCHOOLS

Last Updated: 16.06.2023

Summary Statement

- Unless children are acutely ill they should attend school
- School will administer any **prescribed** medicine to facilitate this
- All medicines must be in their original packaging and clearly labelled
- All medication to be handed in to the office and a parental declaration completed and signed. Medicine will be locked away either in a cupboard or fridge as required.
- All inhalers and certain creams to be handed to main office which will then be passed to teachers and stored in the allocated classroom bag which accompanies children around school and on trips
- At the end of a course of treatment all remaining medication must be removed by parents from School and disposed of accordingly.
- School will hold a supply of Calpol and salbutamol inhalers and will only administer if parental permission is received.

POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

Background to the Policy:

Parents or guardians have prime responsibility for their children's health and should give schools sufficient information about their children's medical condition and treatment or special care needed at school.

- There is no legal duty which requires staff to administer medication; this is a voluntary role. Staff who assist with any form of medication, **in accordance with the procedures detailed within this guidance**, are explicitly reassured that they will be acting within the scope of their employment and that they will be indemnified. Indemnity requires that the procedures are followed as described here.
- This policy refers to prescribed medication and non-prescribed medicine (although generally not administered by school-based staff). The only exception will be Calpol, travel sickness tablets (provided by parent in original packaging) or Children's Piriton for hay fever, which will be kept on site in the main office only and administered following permission from a parent / carer. Calpol will not be given for any length of period exceeding 3 days.
- Unless children are acutely ill they should attend school. To facilitate this it may be necessary for them to take medication during school hours, however this should only be when essential. Where clinically appropriate, medicines can be prescribed in dose frequencies, which enable it to be taken outside of school hours. Parents should be encouraged to ask the prescriber about this. It is noted that medicines that need to be taken three times a day could be taken in the morning, after school and at bedtime.
- Written agreement from parents/guardian is required prior to administering any medication (form A).
- Telephone permission from parents/guardian is required prior to administering any Calpol or Children's Piriton on the same day.
- Written confirmation of instructions from a health practitioner is required prior to administering any medication.
- The school will have a system of record keeping. Records of all administration and disposal of medications must be kept in a bound book to prevent falsification. (form B)

This policy applies to:

All Pupils

Statement of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to give advice to school staff in relation to the administration of medicines in school both as a matter of routine and in an emergency.

Main Policy

All medication must be in the original container.

All medication **MUST** be clearly labeled with:

- the child's name
- the name and strength of the medication
- the dosage and when the medication should be given
- the expiry date

All medication (including homeopathic) must be accompanied by a written confirmation by a health practitioner (e.g. GP, clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner) including the time/dose to be given in school.

Medicine (both prescription and non-prescription) must only be administered to a child where written or verbal (for Calpol or Piriton – provided by school - or travel sick tablets provided by parents in original packaging) permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer

If two medications are required, these should be in separate, clearly and appropriately labeled containers.

On arrival at school, all medication is to be handed to the designated member of staff by the parent, unless there is prior agreement with school and pupil for the pupil to carry medication (e.g. asthma inhalers) and details of this are entered in the medication record.

This Policy is drawn up in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders within both the school and health settings.

Stakeholders include:

- School Staff including first aiders
- School Nurse
- North Tyneside Health & Safety Team

Storage of Medication in school

Medication must be stored in a locked, cabinet with the key stored in an accessible but restricted place known to the designated members of staff.

If refrigerated storage is required this must be lockable and in a designated area of the school and used solely for that purpose.

Once removed from the cabinet, medication should be administered immediately and never left unattended.

Storage of Medication on Visits

All medication to be stored in a school rucksack with the child's name clearly labelled and in the original packaging with the dosage instructions included.

The rucksack, which will also include the first aid kit, should only be carried by the Visit Lead or the nominated First Aider.

Children will not be permitted to carry their own medication.

Documentation

Samples of documentation are included in the appendices. **VERBAL AND TEXT MESSAGES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR PRESCRIBED MEDICATION.**

Each pupil receiving medication will have the following documentation:

- Written request and permission by parents / carers for school to administer medication (Form A - appendices)
- Written confirmation of administration from a health practitioner for prescribed medicines including confirmation of an annual review for asthma that requires continued use of an salbutamol inhaler only in school, specifically named for the child concerned.
- Pupil record of medication administered. (Form B - appendices)
- Parental/guardian consent for school trips
- Parental /guardian verbal consent on day of administration for Calpol or Children's Piriton.

In addition, pupils with complex medical needs will have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP). (Form C – Appendices).

Administration of Medication

Employees who undertake within their role the administration of medication and health care:

- Should receive training and advice from the appropriate health practitioner i.e. the school nursing service.
- Training will be updated appropriately and recorded on SIMS and in the training matrix held by the SBM
- Are responsible for notifying the school when their training requires updating and for ensuring this is arranged.
- Staff involved in specific complex procedures e.g. medication via gastrostomy tube, oxygen therapy, will receive a certificate following training accreditation confirming their ability to perform the procedure.
- Medicine should be administered in an appropriate/confidential room.
- Before medication is administered, the child's identity must be established by checking with another competent adult, who should also confirm the correct medication is being administered.
- Staff will follow directions for administration provided in writing by the health practitioner.
- Staff will record details of each administration (Form B - appendices).

- A child should never be forced to accept medication and where medication is refused parents will be informed.
- Aspirin or paracetamol should not be administered by schools in an Early Year Setting without a prescription
- Over the counter medicines, e.g. hay-fever treatments, cough/cold remedies should only be accepted in exceptional circumstances
- **Controlled Drugs** (e.g. Ritalin) may be legally administered under prescription and should be kept in a locked non portable container/cupboard to which only named staff has access.

Self-Administration of Medication

Parents/guardians must complete a written request form for a child to self-administer medication. (Examples would include: Insulin and or asthma medication). This will only be permitted where a child has been trained and is competent to administer their own medication. (Form D - appendices).

The School requires all asthma inhalers to be put into the wallet in the classroom which will go where the children go i.e. outside into the Wonky Walk-In during break and lunchtime; to the hall if there is indoor PE, outside with the teacher for outdoor PE, with the Visit Lead or First Aider for out of school visits. All pupils will know where they can get their medication from for self-administering.

Children should not carry inhalers themselves – this is to prevent their loss and ensure all relevant staff know where the medication is at all times should it be required.

Record Keeping

A system of record keeping will include:

- Records of parental/guardian consent and health practitioner instructions including those for self-administration consent, which should be reviewed and confirmed annually (September) in addition to ongoing updating.
- Record of administration of medication including amount administered and amount remaining (running total) is to be kept in a bound book.
- Record of medication returned to the parent/carer wherever possible.
- Record of medication disposed of and the form of this disposal

A parent/guardian request form should be completed each time there is a request for medication to be administered or there are changes to medication/administration instructions.

The request form must include:

- Child's name, class, date of birth
- Reason for request
- Name of medication, timing of administration and dosage of medication (**CONFIRMED BY VISIBLE PRESCRIPTION LABEL IN CHILDS OWN NAME**)
- Emergency contact names and telephone numbers
- Name and details of Doctor and/or health practitioner

- **Date of annual asthma review for inhaler users**

Reasons for not administering regular medication must be recorded and parents informed immediately/within the timescale agreed by the health practitioner.

The school must keep records of administration of medication in a bound book. This bound book must be kept in the storage cabinet.

Emergency Medication

Emergency medication is subject to the same request and recording systems as non-emergency medication, with additionally signed CONSENT and written Individual Care Plan (form C - appendices).

This type of medication will be READILY AVAILABLE.

Consent and Care Plan to be kept with the medication.

The Care Plan must be checked and reviewed TERMMLY.

It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to notify school of any change in medication or administration.

Procedures in the Care Plan (sample in appendix) should identify:

- Where the medication is stored
- Who should collect it in an emergency
- Who should stay with the child
- Who will telephone for an ambulance/medical support
- Contact arrangements for parents/carers
- Supervision of other pupils
- Support for pupils witnessing the event

Monitoring of Impact:

Health and Safety Officer and Headteacher should monitor the policy.

Appendix A – Clinical procedures that may be delegated to staff

It is often the case that families and school staff can be trained and supported by health professionals to provide support. However, in some cases this may not be possible without direct health support.

The specific examples included below are an extract from 'Managing children with health care needs: delegation of clinical procedures, training, accountability and governance issues' Royal College of Nursing, updated September 2012. As such, the list below may be delegated to non medical staff, provided they have been given appropriate training.

The following advisory list of clinical procedures may be safely taught and delegated to unregistered health and non-health qualified staff following a child-specific assessment of clinical risk:

- *Administering medicine in accordance with prescribed medicine in pre-measured dose via nasogastric tube, gastrostomy tube, orally or applied to skin, eyes and/or ears.*
- *Injections (intramuscular or subcutaneous). These may be single dose or multiple dose devices which are pre-assembled with pre-determined amounts of medication to be administered as documented in the individual child's care plan (preloaded devices should be marked when to be administered e.g. for diabetes where the dose might be different am or pm. In many circumstances there may be two different pens, one with short-acting insulin to be administered at specified times during the day and another for administration at night with long acting insulin).*
- *Inserting suppositories or pessaries with a pre-packaged dose of a prescribed medicine*
- *Rectal medication with a pre-packaged dose i.e. rectal diazepam*
- *Rectal paraldehyde which is not pre-packaged and has to be prepared – permitted on a named child basis as agreed by the child's lead medical practitioner i.e. GP or paediatrician*
- *Administration of buccal or intra-nasal Midazolam and Hypo stat or GlucoGel.*
- *Blood Glucose monitoring as agreed by the child's lead nursing/medical practitioner i.e. GP, paediatrician or paediatric diabetes nurse specialist*
- *Assistance with inhalers, cartridges and nebulisers*
- *Emergency treatments covered in basic first aid training including airway management*
- *Tracheostomy care including suction using a suction catheter*
- *Emergency change of tracheostomy tube*
- *Oral suction with a yanker sucker*
- *Assistance with prescribed oxygen administration including oxygen saturation monitoring where required*
- *Administration and care of liquid oxygen administration including filling of portable liquid oxygen cylinder from main tank*
- *Ventilation care for a child with a predictable medical condition and stable ventilation requirements (both invasive and non-invasive ventilation). NB. Stability of ventilation requirements should be determined by the child's respiratory physician and will include consideration of the predictability of the child's ventilation needs to enable the key tasks to be clearly learnt.*

- *Bolus or continuous feeds via a nasogastric tube*
- *Bolus or continuous feeds using a pump via a gastrostomy tube*
- *Bolus or continuous feeds using a pump via a jejunostomy tube*
- *Intermittent catheterisation and catheter care*
- *Care of Mitrofanoff*
- *Stoma care including maintenance of patency of a stoma in an emergency situation using for example the tip of a soft foley catheter where the stoma has been established for less than 6 months*
- *Replacement of gastrostomy button devices in non-urgent and urgent situations once stoma has been well established for more than 6 months and there have been no problems with the stoma*

Form A – Agreement to Administer Medicine

The school/setting will not give your child medicine unless you complete and sign this form, and the school or setting has a policy that the staff can administer medicine.

Note: Medicines must be in the original container as dispensed by the Pharmacy

Date for review to be initiated by	
Name of school/setting	
Name of child	
Date of birth	
Group/class/form	
Medical condition or illness	

Medicine

Name/type of medicine (as described on the container)	
Expiry date	
Dosage and method	
Timing	
Special precautions/other instructions	
Are there any side effects that the school/setting needs to know about?	
Self-administration – y/n	
Procedures to take in an emergency	

Contact Details

Name	
Daytime telephone no.	
Relationship to child	
Address	
I understand that I must deliver the medicine personally to	[agreed member of staff]

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to school/setting staff administering medicine in accordance with the school/setting policy. I will inform the school/setting immediately, in writing, if there is any change in dosage or frequency of the medication or if the medicine is stopped.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Form B – Record of Medicine/s Administered

Name of School or Setting: _____

Child's Name: _____

Quantity received
No. of Doses/Volume: _____

Date received: _____

Quantity returned: _____

Date returned: _____

Date	Time	Name and strength of Medicine	Dose given	Doses/quantity Remaining	Comments	Signature of Staff Administering Medicine	Witnessed & checked by 2 nd Employee

Form C - Health Care Plan (Managing Medicines)

Name of School/Setting	
Child's Name	
Group/Class/Form	
Date Of Birth	
Address	
Medical Diagnosis or Condition	

Family information/Emergency Contact

Name of Parent/Carer	
Phone No (Home)	
(Work)	
(Mobile)	
Name of Emergency Contact	
Phone No (Home)	
(Work)	
(Mobile)	
Name of Health Contact	
Phone No	
Name of GP	
Phone No	

Who is responsible for providing support in school

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Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc

Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contra-indications, administered by/self-administered with/without supervision

Daily management of medication (including emergency care e.g. before sport/at lunchtime

Additional advice from relevant health care professionals (e.g. specialist nurse etc)

Daily care requirements

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc

Other information

Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs

Who is responsible in an emergency (*state if different for off-site activities*)

Plan developed with

Staff training needed/undertaken – who, what, when

Form copied to:

Section 2 - Authorisation for the administration of emergency medication

To be completed where administering of emergency medication may be required

Name of School or Setting	
Child's Name	
Date of Birth	
Home Address	
Name of G.P.	
Name of Hospital Consultant (if applicable)	
Details of administration of medication	

Doctor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/carers Signature _____ Date: _____

Section 3 – Individual Epilepsy Plan

To be completed where there is a known history of epilepsy

Name of School or Setting	
Child's Name	
Date of Birth	

Emergency Contact	
Name	
Relationship to child	
Phone No.	

<u>Are there any triggers or warnings prior to a seizure?</u>

<u>Description of usual seizures:</u>

<u>Frequency of seizures – Please specify</u>	
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Usual Care during a seizure

- Observe time at start of seizure
 - Stay with (name)_____ and reassure them
 - Summon help
 - Protect head from injury
 - Maintained privacy & dignity through removing other students from the area
 - Other care
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Emergency care/medication:
(please write name of medication and individual action i.e. when to give, when to repeat dose)

The emergency procedure may be repeated, if necessary, 4 hours after first initiated and twice in any 24 hours period.

Post Seizure
Usual behaviour (e.g. disorientated/vomiting/sleepy/aggressive).

Note: Place in recovery position if sleepy

Form D – request for child/young person to carry his/her own medicine

Note: This form must be completed by the parent/carer:

(If staff have any concerns then the request should be discussed with the healthcare professionals)

Name of school/Setting	
Name of Child	
Group/Class/Form	
Name and strength of Medicine	

I would like my Son/Daughter to keep his/her medicine with him/her for use as necessary

I confirm that my Son/Daughter has received suitable information, instruction and training and is competent to administer their own medication

Signature Of Parent/Carer: _____ Date: _____

Signature Of Young Person: _____ Date: _____

Note: if more than one medicine is to be given then a separate form should be completed for each one.

Appendix C – Model letter inviting parents to contribute to individual Healthcare plan development

Dear Parent,

RE: DEVELOPING AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLAN FOR YOUR CHILD

Thank you for informing us of your child's medical condition. I enclose a copy of the School's policy for supporting students at school with medical conditions for your information.

A central requirement of the policy is for an individual healthcare plan to be prepared, setting out what support each pupil needs and how this will be provided. Individual healthcare plans are developed in partnership with the school, parents/carers, pupils and the relevant healthcare professional who can advise on your child's case.

The aim is to ensure that we know how to support your child effectively and to provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. Although individual healthcare plans are likely to be helpful in the majority of cases, it is possible that not all children will require one. We will need to make judgements about how your child's medical condition impacts their ability to participate fully in school life, and the level of detail within plans will depend on the complexity of their condition and the degree of support needed.

A meeting to start the process of developing your child's individual health care plan has been scheduled for (date). I hope that this is convenient for you and would be grateful if you could confirm whether you are able to attend.

The meeting will include (add details of those who will also be present). Please let us know if you would like us to invite another medical practitioner, healthcare professional or specialist and provide any other evidence you would like us to consider at the meeting as soon as possible.

If you are unable to attend, it would be helpful if you could complete the attached individual healthcare plan template and return it, together with any relevant evidence, for consideration at the meeting. I would be happy for you contact me by email or to speak by phone if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,