Student Self-Administration of Emergency Medications

The following policy sample was created as part of the Developing a School Health Services Assessment Tool and Related Resources Project. This project is funded by Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program, a component of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

The Student Self-Administration of Emergency Medications sample policy has incorporated state and federal requirements along with best practice recommendations. Although it would be best practice to implement all the components of the policy and in your school district, we are aware that district capacity, resources and other factors may result in adoption of portions of the sample policy.

We encourage you to meet as a team within your district to review the sample policy identify what components of the policy and you are currently doing in your district. If you have the capacity to expand upon what you are currently doing, review the sample policy to identify what other practices you would be able to implement.

Throughout the school year, we invite you to take notes using the following page(s). We suggest noting attendees and dates of meetings that you hold related to the policy. Noting discussions that you had during those meetings, identified next steps and additional information you would find helpful to share. These notes will be beneficial when you are asked to complete the evaluation surveys and participate in the site visit interviews with the project staff.

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Notes:

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Definitions:

1. "**Administer**" means the direct application of a nonprescription drug product or prescription drug, whether by injection, ingestion or other means, to the human body.
2. "**Drug**" means any substance recognized as a drug in the official U.S. pharmacopoeia and national formulary or official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United States or any supplement to either of them.
3. "**Drug product**" means a specific drug or drugs in a specific dosage form and strength from a known source of manufacture.
4. "**Epinephrine auto-injector**" means a device used for the automatic injection of epinephrine into the human body.
5. "**Health care professional**" means a person licensed as an emergency medical technician under s. 256.15, a person certified as a first responder under s. 256.15 (8) or any person licensed, certified, permitted or registered under chs. 441 or 446 to 449.
6. “**Professional Nurse**” is a nurse who has a certificate of registration under s. 441.06 or who is licensed as a registered nurse in a party state, as defined in s. 441.50 (2) (j) who performs for compensation of any act in the observation or care of the ill, injured, or infirm, or for the maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others, that requires substantial nursing skill, knowledge, or training, or application of nursing principles based on biological, physical, and social sciences, herein referred to as the School Nurse.
7. "**Practitioner**" means any physician, dentist, optometrist, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse prescriber, or podiatrist licensed in any state.
8. "**Prescription drug**" has the meaning specified in s. 450.01 (20).
9. “**Delegation**” is the process for a nurse to direct another person to perform nursing tasks and activities.

# Policy

The authorization to self-administration of medication will be valid only for the current school year. The parent/guardian must renew the authorization each school year.

Back up rescue medication should be requested from the parent/guardian and, if provided, will be kept at a location in the school to which the student has immediate access during school hours in the event of an asthma/anaphylaxis emergency. The parent/guardian will assure that backup rescue medication is available to the student after school hours and traveling to/from during school-sponsored events.

A student’s authorization to possess and self-administer medication for asthma or anaphylaxis may be limited or revoked by the building principal after consultation with the School Nurse and the student’s parents/guardian if the student demonstrates an inability to responsibly possess and self-administer such medication.

Albuterol

Students with asthma are authorized, in consultation with the School Nurse, to possess and self-administer medication for asthma during the school day, during school-sponsored events, or while traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities. The student will be authorized to possess and self-administer medication if the following conditions are met:

* The parent/guardian must submit a written request for the student to self-administer medication(s) for asthma;
* A health care practitioner must prescribe the medication(s) for use by the student during school hours and has instructed the student in the correct and responsible way to use the medication(s) and the school must be provided with a copy of such prescription;
* Parent and health care provider must agree in writing to allow student to carry and/or self-administer medication.
* The student must demonstrate to the health care practitioner and School Nurse at the school, if available, the skill necessary to use the medication(s) and to use the device necessary to administer the medication(s);
* The health care practitioner must formulate a written treatment plan for managing the asthma episodes of the student and for use of medication(s) during school hours. The frequency with which it may be administered, possible side effects, and the circumstances that warrant its use; and the school must be provided with a copy of the treatment plan.
* Student should be educated to seek assistance if they have no relief of their symptoms.

Epineprhine

Students with anaphylaxis are authorized, in consultation with the school’s registered nurse (RN), to possess and self-administer epinephrine during the school day, during school-sponsored events, or while traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities. The student will be authorized to possess and self-administer medication if the following conditions are met:

* The parent/guardian must submit a written request for the student to self-administer medication(s) for asthma (in the event the student is unable to respond and administer the medication, school personnel will be able to assume the procedure);
* A health care practitioner must prescribe the medication(s) for use by the student during school hours and has instructed the student in the correct and responsible way to use the medication(s) and the school must be provided with a copy of such prescription(s);
* Parent and health care provider must agree in writing to allow student to carry and/or self-administer medication.
* The student must demonstrate to the health care practitioner and School Nurse at the school, if available, the skill necessary to use the medication(s) and to use the device necessary to administer the medication(s);
* The health care practitioner must formulate a written anaphylaxis emergency plan for managing the anaphylaxis episodesof the student and for use of medication(s) during school hours. The frequency with which it may be administered, possible side effects, and the circumstances that warrant its use; and the school must be provided with a copy of the treatment plan
* Seek help immediately if they are going to or have self-administered epinephrine.

**References:**

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2003). Guidelines for the Administration of Medication in School. *Pediatrics,* 112, 697. Available at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/112/3/697.full.pdf+html>

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Wisconsin Statute Chapter 118. *General School Operations*. Available at: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/118.pdf>

**Acknowledgment of Reviewers:**

Bette Carr, MSN, RN, NCSN

Marcia Creasy, BSN, RN

Sharon Daun, RN,BSN, MS, NCSN

Rachel Gallagher, RN, MSN, CPNP, NCSN

Kathy Graham, RN MPH

Mary Kay Kempken, RN, BSN, NCSN

Jill Krueger, RN, BSN

Mary Kay Logemann, RN, BSN, MEd

Barbara Brancel Maley, RN, BSN

Kerri Schmidt, BSN, RN, NCSN

Joan Simpson, RN, BSN, MPH

Lynne Svetnicka, RN, MS, CPNP

Lori Zinck-Jezwinski, RN, MS, CPNP