

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

The administration of medication to a student during school hours shall be provided for the purpose of providing essential medications necessary in order for the student to attend school or benefit from his/her educational program.

Prince George County Public School qualified personnel may administer medication to students only pursuant to written authorization as follows. All medication (with the exception of acetaminophen, ibuprofen and naproxen) shall require written authorization of student's licensed prescriber (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) and parent or guardian. Acetaminophen, ibuprofen and naproxen shall require only written authorization of student's parent or guardian, unless any of the following situations exist, at which time licensed prescriber's authorization is required:

- student requires medication for more than three consecutive school days;
- dosage exceeds recommended amount for age and/or weight;
- medication is contraindicated according to student's health condition and/or other medication being taken;
- personnel administering medication, at his/her discretion, determines that the medication should not be administered.

For purposes of this policy, "medication" shall be defined as all medications including over-the-counter nonprescription medications, vitamins, herbal products, dietary supplements, and those prescribed by a physician.

All medication must be delivered to the principal, school nurse or school division designee by the parent or guardian of the student. Prescription medication must be in the originally labeled prescription bottle that clearly indicates name of student, name of medication, dosage and hour to be given, and name of prescriber. Over-the-counter medication must be in the original, unopened container, labeled with student's name.

With the exception of insulin, asthma medication and/or auto-injectable epinephrine, (as discussed below) the possession, sharing, borrowing, distributing, manufacturing or selling of any medication is prohibited for students.

Self-Administration of Medication

Self-administration of any medication with the exception of insulin, asthma medication and/or auto-injectable epinephrine (as discussed below) is prohibited for students.

Students with a diagnosis of diabetes, asthma, and/or anaphylaxis are permitted to possess and self-administer insulin, inhaled asthma medications and/or auto-injectable epinephrine, as the case may be, in accordance with this policy during the school day, at school-sponsored activities, or while on a school bus or other school property. A student may possess and self-administer insulin,

asthma medication, and/or auto-injectable epinephrine when the following conditions are met:

- Written parental consent that the student may self-administer insulin, inhaled asthma medications and/or auto-injectable epinephrine is on file with the school.
- Written notice from the student's health care provider is on file with the school, indicating the identity of the student, stating the diagnosis of diabetes, asthma and/or anaphylaxis, and approving self-administration of insulin, inhaled asthma medications and/or auto-injectable epinephrine that have been prescribed for the student; specifying the name and dosage of the medication, the frequency in which it is to be administered and the circumstances which may warrant its use; and attesting to the student's demonstrated ability to safely and effectively self-administer the medication.
- An individualized health care plan is prepared, including emergency procedures for any life-threatening conditions.
- There is a consultation with the student's parent before any limitations or restrictions are imposed on a student's possession and self-administration of insulin, inhaled asthma medications and/or auto-injectable epinephrine, and before the permission to possess and self-administer insulin, inhaled asthma medications and/or auto-injectable epinephrine at any point during the school year is revoked.
- Self-administration of insulin, inhaled asthma medications and/or auto-injectable epinephrine is consistent with the purposes of the Virginia School Health Guidelines and the Guidelines for Specialized Health Care Procedures Manual, which are jointly issued by the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Health.
- Information regarding the health condition of the student may be disclosed to school board employees in accordance with state and federal law governing the disclosure of information contained in student scholastic records.

Permission granted to a student to possess and self-administer asthma medications or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, will be effective for a period of 365 calendar days, and must be renewed annually. Permission granted to a student to possess and self-administer insulin must be renewed annually at the beginning of each school year. However, a student's right to possess and self-administer insulin, inhaled asthma medication and/or auto-injectable epinephrine may be limited or revoked after appropriate school personnel consult with the student's parents.

Epinephrine

Pursuant to an order or standing protocol issued by the prescriber within the course of his professional practice, a school nurse or any School Board employee who is authorized and trained in the administration of epinephrine may possess epinephrine and may administer it to any student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction.

Each school shall provide at least two (2) doses each of 0.15mg and 0.3mg of auto-injectable epinephrine (called "stock epinephrine") to be administered to any student believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction on school premises, during the academic day.

Stock epinephrine does not extend to activities off school grounds (including transportation to and from school, field trips, etc.) or outside of the academic day (sporting events, extra-curricular activities, etc.). Stock epinephrine is intended for use on school premises and shall not be carried offsite. It is expected that parents of students with known life threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis provide the school with written instructions from the students' health care provider for handling anaphylaxis and all necessary medications for implementing the student specific order on an annual basis. Stock epinephrine is not intended to replace student specific orders or parent provided individual medications.

Civil Immunity

School principals and other employees of school boards who supervise the self administration of inhaled asthma medication or auto-injectable epinephrine by a student will be immune from liability for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the supervision of self-administration of inhaled asthma medication or auto-injectable epinephrine, when such function is performed in good faith, without compensation, and in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct. School principals and other employees of school boards will be immune from liability for any civil damages for any injuries or deaths resulting from the misuse of such auto-injectable epinephrine.

A school nurse or an employee of a school board, authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of epinephrine, who provides, administers, or assists in the administration of epinephrine to a student believed in good faith to be having an anaphylactic reaction, or is the prescriber of the epinephrine, shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such treatment.

An employee of a school board, authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of insulin and glucagon, who, upon the written request of the parents as defined in § 22.1-1, assists with the administration of insulin or administers glucagon to a student diagnosed as having diabetes who requires insulin injections during the school day or for whom glucagon has been prescribed for the emergency treatment of hypoglycemia shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary

negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such treatment if the insulin is administered according to the child's medication schedule or such employee has reason to believe that the individual receiving the glucagon is suffering or is about to suffer life-threatening hypoglycemia. Whenever any employee of a school board is covered by the immunity granted herein, the school board employing him shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such insulin or glucagon treatment.

Regulation

The superintendent shall develop a regulation for administration of medicines to students. The regulation shall include provisions for the handling, storage, monitoring, documentation and disposal of medication.

Adopted: June 13, 2005

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, as amended, sections 22.1-78, 22.1-274.2, 54.1-2957.02, 8.01-225, 8.01-226.5:1

Cross Ref.: EBBA First Aid/CPR Certified Personnel
JFC-R Standards of Student Conduct
JHCD-R Anaphylaxis Policy - Recognition and Treatment of Anaphylaxis (Severe Allergic Reaction) in the School Setting
JHCE Recommendation of Medication by School Personnel

Additional Ref.:

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2003). Policy statement: Guidelines for the administration of medication in school. *Pediatrics*, 112 No. 3, 697-699.

Hootman, J., Schwab, N. C., Gelfman M. H. B., Gregory, E. K., & Pohlman, K. J. (2005). School nursing practice: Clinical performance issues. In N. Schwab and M. Gelfman's (Eds.), *Legal issues in school health services—A resource for school administrators, school attorneys, and school nurses*, (pp 167-230). New York: Authors Choice Press.

Smith, G. P. & Cruise, E. G. (Eds.). (2006). *Manual for the training of public school employees in the administration of medication*. Virginia Department of Education.