Medication at School

Each school principal will authorize two (2) staff members to administer prescribed or non-prescribed medication. These designated staff members will receive RN delegation prior to the opening of school each year.

For purposes of this procedure, “medication” means oral medication, topical medication, eye drops, ear drops and nasal spray. Oral medications are administered by mouth either by swallowing or by inhaling and may include administration by mask if the mask covers the mouth or mouth and nose.

Prescribed or non-prescribed oral medication may be dispensed to students on a scheduled basis upon written authorization from a parent with a written request by a licensed health professional prescribing within the scope of their prescriptive authority. If the medication is to be administered more than fifteen (15) consecutive days, the written request must be accompanied by written instructions from a licensed health professional. Requests will be valid for not more than the current school year. The prescribed or non-prescribed medication must be properly labeled and be contained in the original container.

The district staff members who dispense the prescribed or non-prescribed oral medication will:

1. Collect the medication directly from the parent, guardian, or an authorized adult (students should not transport medication to school unless pre-authorized by the school registered nurse), collect an authorization form properly signed by the parent and by the prescribing health professional and collect instructions from the prescribing health professional if the medication is to be administered for more than fifteen consecutive days;
2. Store the prescribed or non-prescribed medication (not more than a twenty (20) day supply) in a locked, substantially constructed cabinet;
3. Maintain a daily record which indicates that the prescribed or non-prescribed medication was dispensed; and
4. Provide for supervision by a physician or registered nurse.

A copy of Policy 3416 will be provided to the parent upon request for administration of medication in the schools.

Prescribed and non-prescribed oral, topical, eye drops or ear drops medication may be administered by a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, or an authorized staff member.

Nasal sprays containing legend (prescription) drugs or controlled substances may only be administered by a school nurse or, if a school nurse is not present on school premises, an authorized school employee; or a parent-designated adult with training as required by RCW 28A.210.260. After a school employee who is not a school nurse administers a nasal spray that is a legend drug or a controlled substance, the employee shall summon emergency medical assistance as soon as practicable.
Emergency Medication

No prescribed medication will be administered by injection by staff, except when a student is susceptible to a predetermined, life-endangering situation, (e.g., emergency medication administered to counteract a reaction to an insect sting). The parent shall submit a written statement which grants a staff member the authority to act according to the specific written orders and supporting directions provided by licensed health professional prescribing within his or her prescriptive authority. Such medication will be administered by staff trained by the supervising registered nurse to administer such an injection.

Written orders for emergency medication, signed and dated, from the licensed health professional prescribing within his or her prescriptive authority will:

1. State if the student suffers from an allergy which may result in an anaphylactic reaction;
2. Identify the drug, the mode of administration, and the dose. Epinephrine administered by inhalation, rather than injection, may be a treatment option. This decision must be made by the licensed health professional prescribing within his or her prescriptive authority;
3. Indicate when the injection will be administered based on anticipated symptoms or time lapse from exposure to the allergen;
4. Recommend follow-up after administration, which may include, administration of additional medications, transport to hospital; and
5. Specify how to report to the health professional prescribing within his or her prescriptive authority and any record keeping recommendations.

If a health professional and a student’s parent request that a student be permitted to carry his/her own medication and/or be permitted to self-administer the medication, the principal may grant permission after consulting with the school nurse. The process for requesting and providing instructions shall be the same as established for oral medications. The principal and nurse will take into account the age, maturity and capability of the student; the nature of the medication; the circumstances under which the student will or may have to self-administer the medication and other issues relevant in the specific case before authorizing a student to carry and/or self-administer medication at school. Except in the case of multi-dose devices (like asthma inhalers), students will only carry one day’s supply of medication at a time. Violations of any conditions placed on the student permitted to carry and/or self-administer his/her own medication may result in termination of that permission, as well as the imposition of discipline when appropriate.

High School students are allowed to carry and self-administer a one-day supply of over-the-counter medication. Over-the-counter medication must be kept in the original container. Students will be subject to disciplinary action if they give/sell prescription or non-prescription medication to other students for consumption.

Parent-Designated Adult Care of Students with Epilepsy

Parents of students with epilepsy may designate an adult to provide care for their student consistent with the student’s individual health care plan. At parent request, school district employees may volunteer to be a parent-designated adult under this policy, but they will not be
required to participate. Parent-designated adults who are school employees will file a voluntary, written, current and unexpired letter of intent stating their willingness to be a parent-designated adult. Parent-designated adults who are school employees are required to receive training in caring for students with epilepsy from the school nurse. Parent-designated adults will receive additional training from a parent-selected health care professional or expert in epileptic care to provide the care (including medication administration) requested by the parent.

Parent-designated adults who are not school employees are required to show evidence of comparable training, and meet school district requirements for volunteers. Parent-designated adults will receive additional training from a parent-selected health care professional or expert in epileptic care to provide the care requested by the parent. The school registered nurse is not responsible for the supervision of procedures authorized by the parents and carried out by the parent-designated adult.