REPLACEMENT POLICY - VOL. 8, NO. 2

SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATION AND EPINEPHRINE USE

A student may carry and self-administer a metered dose inhaler, epinephrine auto injector, prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplement and/or may carry diabetic supplies and equipment to manage and care for their diabetes provided the student’s parent or guardian provides the following:

A. For self-administration of a metered dose inhaler, the parent or guardian must provide the school with a written authorization that is signed and dated by both the parent or guardian and licensed provider. The written approval by the physician must include:

1. student’s name;
2. name of the medication in the metered dose inhaler;
3. the prescribed dosage;
4. the time(s) and route(s) or the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered; and
5. intended effect of the medication;
6. allergies;
7. other medication(s) taken by the student; and
8. any other special related information regarding the administration of the metered dose inhaler.

B. For self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector, the parent or guardian must provide the school with a written authorization that is signed and dated by both the parent or guardian and the licensed prescriber. The written approval by the physician must include:

1. student’s name;
2. name of the medication in the metered dose inhaler;
3. the prescribed dosage;
4. the time(s) or route(s) the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered; and
5. intended effect of the medication;
6. allergies;
7. other medication(s) taken by the student; and
8. any other special related information regarding the administration of the epinephrine auto-injected.

C. For self-administration of prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements, the parent or guardian must provide the school with a written authorization that is signed and dated and provide the prescription label containing the following:

1. _student’s name_
2. _name of the medication in the metered dose inhaler_
3. _the prescribed dosage_
4. _the time(s) or route(s) the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered_
5. _intended effect of the medication_
6. _allergies_
7. _other medication(s) taken by the student_
8. _any other special related information regarding the administration of the medicine_
D. For the use of diabetic supplies and equipment, the parent or guardian must submit written authorization from the student’s physician, containing the following:

1. an identification of the diabetic supplies and equipment the student is authorized to carry
2. a description of which activities the child is capable of performing without assistance
3. student’s name
4. name of the medication in the metered dose inhaler
5. the prescribed dosage
6. the time(s) or route(s) the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered
7. intended effect of the medication
8. allergies
9. other medication(s) taken by the student
10. any other special related information regarding the administration of the medication

The student must demonstrate the ability and understanding to self-administer medication by passing an assessment by the school nurse evaluating the student’s technique of self-administration and level of understanding of the appropriate use of the medication.

The parents or guardians of the student must acknowledge in writing that they have read and understand a notice provided by the county board or nonpublic school that:

A. the school, county school board and its employees and agents are exempt from any liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the student; and
B. the parents or guardians indemnify and hold harmless the school, the county board of education and its employees or guardians and agents against any claims arising out of the self-administration of the medication by the student.

**Emergency Allergy Treatment Educational Training Programs**

Educational training programs in the County pertaining to emergency allergy treatment required by State law must be conducted by a nationally recognized organization experienced in training laypersons in emergency health treatment or an entity or individual approved by the Department of Health and Human Resources. The curriculum must include at a minimum:

A. recognition of the symptoms of systemic reactions to food, insect stings, and other allergens; and

B. the proper administration of a subcutaneous injection of epinephrine auto-injector.

[ ] **Epinephrine Use and Supply**

School principals may request and be granted permission by the Superintendent to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for use in emergency medical care or treatment of a student or school personnel for an anaphylactic reaction. The epinephrine auto-injectors shall be stored in accordance with the epinephrine auto-injector’s instructions. The school shall designate employees or agents who are trained to be responsible for the storage, maintenance and general oversight of epinephrine auto injectors. Epinephrine auto injectors shall be maintained by the school in a secure unlocked location that is only accessible to school nurses, health care providers and designated, trained, and authorized nonmedical personnel and not by students.
A school nurse or individual designated, trained, and authorized, pursuant to State law may, on the premises of or in connection with the school, use epinephrine auto-injectors to:

A. provide an epinephrine auto-injector to a person who the designated, trained and authorized individual in good faith believes is experiencing a severe allergic reaction for that person's immediate self-administration, regardless of whether the person has a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector or has previously been diagnosed with an allergy; or

B. administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a person who the designated, trained and authorized individual in good faith believes is experiencing a severe allergic reaction, regardless of whether the person has a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector or has previously been diagnosed with an allergy.

Prior notice to the parents of a student of the administration of the epinephrine auto-injector is not required. Immediately following the administration of the epinephrine auto-injector, the school shall provide a comprehensive notification to the parent of a student who received an auto-injection. The comprehensive notification should include date and the approximate time the incident occurred, symptoms observed, who administered the injection, the rational for administering the injection, the response to the epinephrine administration, the dose of epinephrine administered, the current location of the student and other necessary elements to make the student's parents fully aware of the circumstances surrounding the administration of the injection.

All schools are required to report each reaction resulting in the administration of epinephrine injections in their county. The incident will be reported to the West Virginia Poison Center by calling 800 222-1222 after emergency medical services have transported the student or staff member to acute care. The notification should include:

A. the name of the student;
B. the student’s age and gender;
C. date and the approximate time the incident occurred;
D. symptoms observed;
E. who administered the injection;

F. the name of the school the student attends;

G. a contact telephone number;

H. the rational for administering the injection;

I. the response to the epinephrine administration;

J. the dose of epinephrine administered; and

K. any other necessary elements to provide a complete report for the individual situation.

The West Virginia Poison Center will provide the data upon request to the public schools, local boards of education and annually to the State Superintendent of Schools.

A designated, trained, and authorized employee of the Board who administers or provides an epinephrine auto-injection to a person is immune from liability for any civil action arising out of an act or omission resulting from the administration of the epinephrine auto-injection unless the act or omission was the result of the individual’s gross negligence or willful misconduct.

The Board may participate in free or discounted drug programs from pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide epinephrine auto-injectors to its schools.

The documents related to the self-administration of medication provided to the school shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, in the office of the school administrator and shall become part of the student’s health record.

Permission for a student to self-administer medication is effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year if the requirements of this section are met.
Permission to self-administer medication may be revoked if the school nurse or the administrative head of the school finds that the student's technique of self-administration and understanding of the use of the medication is not appropriate or is willfully disregarded.

A student with who has met the requirements of this policy may possess and use medication:

A. in school;
B. at a school-sponsored activity;
C. under the supervision of school personnel; or
D. before or after normal school activities, such as before school or after school care on school operated property.

WV Code 18-5-22b
West Virginia State Board of Education policy 2422.8

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