

Students

Administration of Medication

A licensed nurse, or in the absence of such nurse, qualified personnel for schools may administer medication to students in the school system. Administration of medications by qualified personnel for schools shall be under the general supervision of the school nurse and in accordance with a student's individual medication plan.

Students will be permitted to self-administer medications only when they follow the procedures established by this policy and obtain prior approval from the school nurse. This requirement applies even to students who are age 18 or older.

Nothing in this policy prohibits parents or guardians from administering medication to their own children on school grounds.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Medication” means any medicinal preparation including over-the-counter, prescription and controlled drugs.

“Administration of Medication” means any one of the following activities:

- Handling, storing, preparing or pouring of medication;
- Conveying it to the student according to the medication order;
- Observing the student inhale, apply, swallow, or self-inject the medication;
- Documenting that the medication was administered;
- Counting remaining doses to verify proper administration and use.

“Qualified personnel” (A) for schools means a qualified school employee who is (i) a full time employee, or is (ii) a coach, athletic trainer or school paraprofessional, or (B) for school readiness programs and before- and after-school programs, means the director or director's designee and any lead teachers and school administrators who have been trained in the administration of medication;

“Authorized Prescriber” means a physician, dentist, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant and, for interscholastic and intramural athletic events only, a podiatrist.

“Self-Administration of Medication” means that the medication is controlled by the student at all times and self-managed by the student according to an individual medication plan.

Students

Administration of Medication

Except for the emergency administration of epinephrine to students who do not have a written prior authorization or order, prior to any administration of medication to students, the school nurse must be in possession of the following documentation:

1. The written order of an authorized prescriber;
2. The written authorization of a parent, guardian or student who is 18 years of age or older; and
3. The written permission for the exchange of information between the prescriber and the school nurse necessary to ensure safe administration of the medication.

Self-Administration of Medications by Students

Students who have a verified chronic medical condition and are deemed capable to self-administer prescribed emergency medication [or maintenance medication for diabetes] will be permitted to self-administer such medication provided that:

1. The required documentation for self-administering medication at school includes the following additional items:
 - a. The written order must include the recommendation for self-administration by the authorized prescriber;
 - b. The written authorization of the parent/guardian or student who is 18 years of age or older for the self-administration of medication;
 - c. An assessment by the school nurse that the student is competent to self-administer in the school setting;
 - d. An appropriate plan for the self-administration of medication including provisions for general supervision developed by the school nurse.
2. In addition, the Principal and appropriate staff must be informed that the student is self-administering prescribed medication.
3. The medication is transported by the student and maintained under the student's control in accordance with school policy and the student's plan.

Students

Administration of Medication

4. In the case of inhalers for asthma and cartridge injectors for medically diagnosed allergies, the school nurse's review of a student's competency to self-administer shall not be used to prevent a student from retaining and self-administering such medication. In such cases, students may retain possession of inhalers or cartridge injectors at all times while attending school or receiving transportation services and self-administer such medication with only the written authorization of an authorized prescriber and written authorization from a student's parent or guardian.

Students with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergic condition may possess, self-administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to protect such student against serious harm or death. Such students may possess, self-administer or possess and self-administer medication pursuant to the written authorization or a parent or guardian and pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical professional. Such students may possess, self-administer or possess and self-administer medication while in school or while receiving school transportation services.

Self-Administration of Sunscreen by Students

Any student who is six years of age or older may possess and self-apply an over-the-counter sunscreen product while in school prior to engaging in any outdoor activity, provided a written authorization signed by the student's parent or guardian is submitted to the school nurse.

Administrative Regulations

The Superintendent of Schools, with the advice and approval of the school medical advisor and the school nurse supervisor shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The regulations shall address the following topics:

1. Administration of medications by qualified personnel for schools
2. Limitations of LPNs, paraprofessionals, coaches and athletic trainers
3. School readiness and before- or after-school programs
4. Training and supervision of qualified school personnel
5. Self-administration of medications by students
6. Procedures in the event of a medication emergency
7. Handling, storage and disposal of medications
8. Documentation and record-keeping
9. Notification and documentation of errors in the administration of medication

Students

Administration of Medication

10. Procedures for the administration of epinephrine by qualified school employees for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written authorization for the administration of epinephrine
11. Procedures for the administration of opioid antagonists by qualified school employees for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience an opioid-related drug overdose and do not have a prior written authorization for the administration of an opioid antagonist

School Bus Drivers

For purposes of this policy a “school bus driver” means any person employed by the New Milford Board of Education or by a private carrier who holds a commercial driver’s license with a public passenger endorsement pursuant to subsection (a) of section 14-44 of the Connecticut General Statutes and who transports New Milford Public Schools’ students in a school bus.

Not later than June 30, 2019 all school bus drivers providing transportation services to New Milford Public Schools’ students shall receive training as required by law (1) the identification of the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, (2) the administration of epinephrine by a cartridge injector, (3) the notification of emergency personnel, and (4) the reporting of an incident involving a student and a life-threatening allergic reaction.

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 52-557b, school bus drivers on or in the immediate vicinity of a school bus during the provision of school transportation services, who render emergency care by administration of medication with a cartridge injector to a student in need thereof who has a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death, shall not be liable to the student assisted for civil damages for any injuries which result from acts or omissions by the school bus driver in rendering the emergency care of administration of medication with a cartridge injector, which may constitute ordinary negligence.

Biennial Review of Policy and Regulations

This policy and administrative regulations shall be reviewed and revised biennially with the advice and approval of the school medical advisor, school nurse supervisor or other qualified licensed physician.

Students

Administration of Medication

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners. Administration of medications by parents or guardians on school grounds.
- 10-212a Administration of medications in schools, at athletic events and to children in school readiness programs
- 14-11 License endorsement for operators of commercial motor vehicles used for passenger transportation, school buses, student transportation vehicles, taxicabs, motor vehicles in livery service and motor or service buses. Requirements. Hearing. Appeal. Report re persons whose license or endorsement has been withdrawn, suspended or revoked. Penalty.
- 52-557b “Good Samaritan law”. Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance, first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render. Immunity from liability re automatic external defibrillators.

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

- 10-212a-1 to 10-212a-10 Administration of Medications by School Personnel and Administration of Medication During Before – and After– School Programs and School Readiness Programs

- Policy adopted: June 12, 2001
- Policy revised: June 11, 2002
- Policy revised: August 26, 2003
- Policy revised: June 24, 2004
- Policy revised: September 14, 2004
- Policy revised: June 12, 2007
- Policy revised: October 13, 2009
- Policy revised: June 14, 2011
- Policy revised: November 10, 2015
- Policy revised: September 18, 2018
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- Policy revised: September 17, 2019
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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Milford, Connecticut