

# WALLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## POLICY: Administration of Medication

The Wallington Board of Education disclaims any and all responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of the illness of any pupil. At the same time, the Wallington Board of Education recognizes that a pupil's attendance may be contingent upon the timely administration of medication duly prescribed by a physician. The Wallington Board of Education will permit the dispensation of medication in school only when the pupil's health and continuing attendance in school so require and when the medication is administered in accordance with this policy.

### Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, "medication" means any prescription drug or over the counter medicine or nutritional supplement.

For the purpose of this policy, "self-administration" means carrying and taking medication without the intervention of the school nurse, approved through the school district policy and restricted to students with asthma and other life threatening illnesses.

For the purpose of this policy, "a pre-filled single dose auto-injector mechanism containing epinephrine" means a medical device used for the emergency administration of epinephrine to a pupil for anaphylaxis.

No medication will be administered to pupils in school except by the certified school nurse, another registered nurse, a trained delegate for epinephrine auto-injectors and Glucagon administration, or the pupil's parent/guardian acting on a written order from the pupil's private physician. **Medication must be delivered to the school nurse by the pupil's parent/guardian in the original container labeled by the pharmacy or physician.** Written orders signed by the pupil's private physician must be provided stating the name of the medication, the purpose of its administration to the specific pupil for whom it is intended, its proper timing and dosage, its possible side effects, and the time when its use will be discontinued. All medication orders will be effective for the school year it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year.

The school medical physician may issue standing orders to the school nurse regarding the administration of medication. Medication no longer required must be promptly removed by the parent/guardian.

Self-administration of medication by pupils is permitted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3. A pupil is only permitted to self-administer medication for asthma or other potentially life threatening illnesses as defined by the Department of Education, New Jersey Statutes Annotated and New Jersey Administrative Code. The pupils parent/legal guardian must provide written certification from the pupil's physician to include the pupil has asthma or other potentially life threatening illness and the pupil is capable of, and has been instructed in the proper use of self-administration of the medication and may carry the medication on their person. Parent agrees that if at any time, in the opinion of the administration and/or school nurse the pupil is not in compliance with policy the child may not be

permitted to self-medicate. These written orders may be reviewed by the school medical physician prior to school approval for self-administration of any medication.

Each school in the district shall have and maintain for the use of pupils at least one nebulizer in the office of the school nurse. Each certified school nurse or other persons authorized to administer asthma medication are trained in airway management and in the use of nebulizers and inhalers consistent with the State Department of Education regulations. Every pupil that is authorized to use asthma medications pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 or a nebulizer must have an asthma action treatment plan prepared by the pupil's physician which shall identify, at a minimum, asthma triggers, the treatment plan and other such elements as required by the Department of Education.

The School Nurse shall have the primary responsibility for the administration of a pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism containing epinephrine. However, the School Nurse may designate, in consultation with the Board or Superintendent, another employee of the district trained in accord with the "Training Protocols for the implementation of Emergency Administration of Epinephrine" issued by the New Jersey Department of Education, to administer the pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism containing epinephrine when the School Nurse is not physically present at the scene. The pupil's parent/legal guardian must consent in writing to the designated person if applicable. In addition, the parent/legal guardian must be informed that the school district has no liability as a result of any injury arising from the administration of a pre-filled single dose auto injector containing epinephrine, and the parents/legal guardian sign a statement that shall indemnify and hold the district and employees harmless against any claims arising from the administration of a pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism containing epinephrine to pupils for anaphylaxis is effective for the school year it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year.

If written orders for the use of a pre-filled single dose auto injector mechanism containing epinephrine are provided, the orders must say the pupil requires the administration of epinephrine for anaphylaxis and does not have the capability of self-administration of the medication.

The school nurse shall have the primary responsibility for the emergency administration of Glucagon to a student with diabetes who is experiencing severe hypoglycemia. The school nurse shall designate, in consultation with the Board of Education or Superintendent, additional employees of the school district who volunteer to administer Glucagon to a student with diabetes who is experiencing severe hypoglycemia. The designated employees shall only be authorized to administer Glucagon, following training by the school nurse or other qualified health care professional, when a school nurse is not physically present at scene. The pupil's parent/legal guardian must consent in writing to the designated person if applicable. In addition, the parent/legal guardian must be informed that the school district has no liability as a result of any injury arising from the emergency administration of Glucagon, and the parents/legal guardian sign a statement that shall indemnify and hold the district and employees harmless against any claims arising from the administration of a Glucagon to pupils experiencing severe hypoglycemia and is effective for the school year it is granted and must be renewed for each subsequent school year.

In the instance where no designee can be successfully selected and trained and the child is unable to self-administer medication, the School Nurse is solely responsible for the administration of medication.

All pupil medications shall be appropriately maintained and secured by the school nurse, except those medications to be self-administered by pupils. In those instances the medication may be retained by the pupil with the prior knowledge of the school nurse. The school nurse may provide the principal and other teaching staff members concerned with the pupil's educational progress with such information about the medication and its administration as may be in the pupil's best educational interest. The school nurse may report to the school medical inspector any pupil who appears to be affected adversely by the administration of medication and may recommend to the principal the pupil's exclusion pursuant to law.

The school nurse shall document each instance of the administration of medication to a pupil. The school nurse shall preserve records and documentation regarding the self-administration of medication in the pupil's health file.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1, 2.3

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.7

N.J.S.A 18A:40-12.5, 12.6

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.11-12.21

Regulation 5330

P.L.1997, c.368

P.L. 2009, c.361

New Jersey Department of Education, Training Protocols for the Implementation of Emergency Administration of Epinephrine

Proposed:

Approved: