

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS

PUPRPOSE: The Governance Council (GC) is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for students and understands the increasing prevalence of life-threatening allergies among school populations. The GC is further committed to ensuring that students have access to life-saving emergency medication.

BACKGROUND: Recognizing that the risk of accidental exposure to life-threatening allergens can be reduced in the school setting, the GC is committed to working in cooperation with parents, students, and treatment providers to minimize risks and promote a safe educational environment for all students. The focus of allergy management will be on prevention, education, awareness, communication, and emergency response.

ALLERGY MANAGEMENT

(A) The objectives for allergy management are:

1. Developing a formal process and guidelines for identifying and managing continuity of care for students diagnosed with life-threatening allergies.
2. Promoting the health and safety of children who have life-threatening allergies in ways that are developmentally appropriate, supporting self advocacy and competence in self-care, and providing appropriate educational opportunities.
3. Confirming that interventions and individual Health Management Plans for students with life-threatening allergies are based on the health care practitioner's information.

(B) If a staff member suspects a disability and a need for accommodations or special education and related services, the school shall not delay a referral to the school's 504 Coordinator or the Student Assistance Team (SAT) for evaluation to determine eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). A Health Management Plan (HMP) shall be developed in accordance with the student's medical needs and incorporated into the student's Section 504 plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if the student is 504-eligible and/or qualifies for special education and related services. In accordance with applicable law, it is the policy of the school to provide all students, through reasonable accommodations where required, the opportunity to participate in school programs and activities.

ANAPHYLACTIC RECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE

- (A) It is the policy of the GC to obtain a standing order for, and provide to the school a stock supply of standard-dose and pediatric-dose epinephrine auto-injectors, as permitted by the Emergency Medication in Schools Act.
- (B) The CAO/Principal shall promulgate written procedures implementing this policy including to ensure that auto-injectors are prescribed, stored and disposed of in accordance with NMSA 1978, Section 22-33-3 of the Emergency Medication in Schools Act.
- (C) The student must be instructed by the parent or the health care practitioner on how to take his/her medication. It is the responsibility of the student with the parent's guidance to understand why he/she takes the medication and to take it according to the prescribed schedule and the medication administration plan.
- (D) The written procedures for the implementation of this policy shall further include procedures to:
 - 1. Administer epinephrine to a student who is reasonably believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction, regardless of whether the student has been identified or documented as having a severe allergy, has a prescription for epinephrine or has supplied the school with epinephrine auto-injectors; and
 - 2. Follow an anaphylaxis action protocol to:
 - a. Recognize symptoms of anaphylaxis;
 - b. Administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student reasonably believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction;
 - c. Call 911 to initiate an emergency medical system;
 - d. Continue to monitor the student's condition and deliver any additional treatment indicated until an emergency medical system responder arrives;
 - e. Take any other necessary actions based on training completed pursuant to the Emergency Medication in Schools Act.
- (E) The school shall maintain documentation that trained personnel have received training.

ADMINISTRATION OF ALBUTEROL

- (A) It is the policy of the GC to obtain a standing order for, and provide to the school a stock supply of albuterol aerosol canisters and spacers for a school nurse to administer albuterol to a student who is perceived to be in respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has been identified or documented as having asthma, has a prescription for albuterol or has supplied the school with albuterol, as permitted by the Emergency Medication in Schools Act.
- (B) The CAO/Principal shall promulgate written procedures implementing this policy including to ensure that albuterol aerosol canisters and spacers are prescribed, stored and disposed of in accordance with NMSA 1978, Section 22-33-3 of the Emergency Medication in Schools Act.

(C) The written procedures for the implementation of this policy shall further include procedures to:

1. Recognize the symptoms of respiratory distress;
2. Administer albuterol using a spacer;
3. Call 911 to initiate an emergency medical system;
4. Continue to monitor the student's condition and deliver any additional treatment indicated until an emergency medical system responder arrives;
5. Notify the parent, guardian or legal custodian of the student having respiratory distress; and
6. Take any other necessary actions based on training completed pursuant to the Emergency Medication in Schools Act.

All written procedures and plans developed pursuant to this policy shall be consistent with the protocols set forth in the Emergency Medication in Schools Act and Department of Health rules and recommendations.

The GC or the school may accept gifts, grants, bequests and donations from any source to carry out the provisions of the Emergency Medication in Schools Act, including the acceptance of albuterol aerosol canisters and spacers and epinephrine auto-injectors from a manufacturer or wholesaler.

Legal Reference: NMSA 1978, Section 22-33-3 of the Emergency Medication in Schools Act 1.21.2 NMAC

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