

## Students

### Administering Medication

The purpose of this policy is for the Woodbridge Board of Education to determine who shall administer medications in a school and the circumstances under which self-administration of medication by students shall be permitted.

The Board of Education allows students to self-administer medication and school personnel to administer medication to students in accordance with the established procedures, and applicable state regulations, sections 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-10 inclusive. In order to provide immunity afforded to school personnel who administer medication, the Board of Education, with the advice and approval of the School Medical Advisor and the school nurse supervisor, shall review and/or revise this policy and regulation biennially concerning the administration of medications to District students by a nurse, or in the absence of a nurse, by qualified personnel for schools. The District's School Medical Advisor (or other qualified physician) shall approve this policy, its regulations and any changes prior to adoption by the Board.

### Definitions

**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, when applicable; documenting that the medication was administered; and counting remaining doses to verify proper administration and use of medication.

**Error** means:

(1) the failure to do any of the following as ordered:

- a. administer a medication to a student;
- b. administer medication within the time designated by the prescribing physician;
- c. administer the specific medication prescribed for a student;
- d. administer the correct dosage of medication;
- e. administer medication by the proper route; and/or
- f. administer the medication according to generally accepted standards of practice; or

(2) the administration of medication to a student which is not ordered by an authorized prescriber, or which is not authorized in writing by the parent or guardian of such student.

**Medication** means any medicinal preparation including over-the-counter, prescription and controlled drugs, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-240. This definition includes Aspirin, Ibuprofen or Aspirin substitutes containing Acetaminophen.

**Medication order** means the written direction by an authorized prescriber for the administration of medication to a student which shall include the name of the student, the name and generic name of the medication, the dosage of the medication, the route of administration, the time of administration, the frequency of administration, the indications for medication, any potential side effects including overdose or missed dose of the medication, the start and termination dates not to exceed a 12-month period, and the written signature of the prescriber.

**Nurse** means an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse or a practical nurse licensed in Connecticut in accordance with Chapter 378 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**Qualified personnel for schools** means (a) a full-time employee who meets the local or regional Board of Education requirements as a principal, teacher, occupational therapist or physical therapist and has been trained in the administration of medication in accordance with Section 10-212a-3 of the State regulations; (b) a paraprofessional who has been trained in the administration of medication pursuant to Section 10-212a-9 of the State regulations.

#### **General Policies on Administration of Medication**

A child with diabetes may test his/her own blood glucose level per the written order of a physician or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) stating the need and the capacity of such child to conduct self-testing. The Board may request written acknowledgement from the parent/guardian, and have the school nurse approve the student's ability to test his/her blood glucose independently, but may not deny the student's right to test if the school has the written order from the physician or APRN. Such self-testing shall be pursuant to guidelines promulgated by the Commissioner of Education.

A child diagnosed with asthma or an allergic condition, pursuant to state Board of Education regulations, may carry an inhaler or an Epipen or similar device in the school at all times if he/she is under the care of a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and such practitioner certifies in writing to the Board of Education that the child may self-administer either an asthmatic inhaler or Epipen to ensure prompt treatment of the child's asthma or allergic condition and protect the child against serious harm or death. A written authorization of the parent/guardian is also required.

A school nurse may only administer medication to a student when the school has the following three documents: (1) the written order of an authorized prescriber (physician, dentist, optometrist, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician assistant); (2) the written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child or eligible student; and (3) the written permission of the parent/guardian for the exchange of information between the prescriber and the school nurse necessary to ensure the safe administration of such medication.

In the absence of a school nurse or any other nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 378, only qualified personnel for schools who have been properly trained may administer medications to students as delegated by the school nurse upon approval of the School Medical Advisor.

Medication with a cartridge injector may be administered by qualified personnel for schools only to a student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition which may require prompt treatment to protect the student against serious harm or death. Qualified personnel for schools, as defined, may administer oral, topical, intranasal, or inhalant medication in the absence of a licensed nurse. Investigational drugs or research or study medications may not be administered by qualified personnel for schools.

In compliance with all applicable state statutes and regulations, parents/guardians may administer medications to their own children on school grounds.

#### **Administration of Anti-epileptic Medications to Students**

*With the written authorization of a student's parent/guardian and pursuant to the written order of a physician, a school nurse (and a school medical advisor, if any), shall select and provide general supervision to a qualified school employee, who voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee, to administer anti-epileptic medication, including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan.*

*Such authorization is limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer such medication unless s/he annually completes the training program developed by the State Department to Education, in consultation with the School Nurse Advisory Council.*

*In addition the school nurse (and medical advisor, if any) shall attest, in writing, that such qualified school employee has completed the required training. The qualified school employee shall also receive monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm his/her competency to administer anti-epileptic medication. For purposes of the administration of anti-epileptic medication, a "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by the district, coach or school paraprofessional.*

#### **Administration of Medication by Paraprofessional**

A specific paraprofessional, through a plan approved by a school nurse supervisor and School Medical Advisor, may administer medications including medications administered with a cartridge injector, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death pursuant to Section 10-212a-9 of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and as described in the administrative regulations. The approved plan also requires the written authorization of the student's parent/guardian and pursuant to the written order from the student's authorized prescriber licensed to prescribe medication.

#### **Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes**

10-206 Health Assessment

10-212 School nurses and nurse practitioners. Administration of medications by parents or guardians on school grounds. Criminal history; records check.

10-212a Administration of medications in schools. (as amended by PA 99- 2, and June Special Session and PA 03-211, PA 04-181, PA 07-241, PA 07-252 and PA 09-155)

19a-900 Use of cartridge injector by staff member of before- or after-school program, day camp or day care facility.

21a-240 Definitions

29-17a Criminal history checks. Procedure. Fees.

52-557b Immunity from liability for emergency medical assistance first aid or medication by injection. School personnel not required to administer or render. (as amended by PA 05-144, An Act Concerning the Emergency Use of Cartridge Injectors)

Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-10, inclusive.

Code of Federal Regulations: Title 21 Part 1307.2

20-12d Medical functions performed by physician assistants. Prescription authority.

20-94a Licensure as advanced practice registered nurse.

29-17a Criminal History Checks, Procedure. Fees

PA 07-241 An Act Concerning Minor Changes to the Education Statutes

*Add PA 15-215 to legal reference*

Policy Adopted: March 17, 2014

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Woodbridge, Connecticut