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SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: December 1993 REVISION DATE: November 2004; February 2006; September 2006	
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Although the Poland Regional High School Committee discourages the administration of medication to students during the school day when other options exist, it recognizes that in some instances a student’s chronic or short term illness, injury, or disabling condition may require the administration of medication during the school day. The school will not deny educational opportunities to students requiring the administration of medication in order to remain in attendance and participate in the educational program.

The intent of this policy is to ensure the safe administration of medications to students by school personnel and to provide for authorization of student emergency self-administration of medication from asthma inhalers and epinephrine pens. The Poland Regional High School Committee encourages collaboration between parents/guardians and the schools in these efforts.

The Poland Regional High School Committee disclaims any and all responsibility for the diagnosis, prescription of treatment, and administration of medication for any student and for any injury arising from a student’s self-administration of medication.

Definitions

“Administration” means the provision of prescribed medication to a student according to the orders of a health care provider.

“Health care provider” means a medical/health practitioner who has a current license in the State of Maine with a scope of practice that includes prescribing medication.

“Indirect supervision” means the supervision of an unlicensed school staff member when the school nurse or other health care provider is not physically available on site but immediately available by telephone.

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“Medication” means prescribed drugs or over the counter medications and medical devices that are controlled by the U.S. Food and Drug administration and are ordered by a health care provider. It includes over-the-counter medications prescribed through a standing order by the school physician or prescribed by the student’s health care provider.

“Parent” means a natural or adoptive parent, a guardian, or a person acting as a parent of a child with legal responsibility for the child’s welfare.

“School nurse” means a registered professional nurse with Maine Department of Education certification for school nursing.

“Self-administration” is when the student administers medication independently to him/herself under indirect supervision of the school nurse.

“Unlicensed school personnel” are persons who do not have a professional license that allows them, within the scope of that license, to administer medication.

Administration of Medication by School Personnel

Parental Request

In the event that no reasonable alternative exists, the parent/guardian may request in writing that medication be administered to the student during the school day. The written request must include an acknowledgement and agreement that unlicensed personnel may administer the medication as per the health insurance provider’s instructions. In addition, the request shall indicate that information regarding the student’s medication may be shared with appropriate school personnel. If they choose to do so, parent/guardians may reveal the reason (diagnosis) requiring the administration of medication. The provision of such information is optional and disclosure shall not be compelled. Requests shall be valid for the current school year only.

Health Care Provider’s Order

All parent/guardian requests must be accompanied by a written order from the student’s health care provider substantiating the fact that the administration of a particular medication during the school day is necessary for the student’s health and attendance in school. We accept the prescription on the bottle as the physician’s written order when accompanied by an “Authorization for Poland School Personnel to Administer Medication” form. Such order must include:

- A. The student’s name;
- B. The name of the medication;
- C. The individual dosage;

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- D. The route of administration (e.g., tablets, liquid, drops);
- E. Time intervals for administration;
- F. Potential side effects; and
- G. Any specific instructions or procedures for the administration of the particular medication to the student.

Parent/guardian requests must include information concerning the medical personnel to be contacted in the event complications arise with the administration of medication, including missed doses.

Renewal of Parental Permission Requests/Forms and Health Care Provider Orders

Written parental permission requests/forms and health care provider orders must be renewed at least annually.

Any changes to the following also shall require new written requests/orders as applicable:

- A. Information in the health care provider’s original written order;
- B. Health care provider(s);
- C. Specific instructions or procedures for the administration of the particular medication to the student;
- D. Condition of the student; or
- E. Type of medication, dosage, and/or frequency.

In those circumstances where the school nurse, LPN or other school health provider believes that the prescription does not provide sufficient information for appropriate administration, or when the family’s physician has indicated that he/she does not want the medication administered by unlicensed school personnel, he/she shall immediately inform the school nurse who shall schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian(s), and appropriate professionals to discuss alternative options for administration of medication to the student.

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In accordance with Department of Education Rule Chapter 40, §2(B), the school nurse may decline to administer a medication if he/she believes such administration would jeopardize student safety. In this case, the school nurse must notify the parent, the student’s health care provider and the school administrator (i.e. building principal or designated administrator).

Delivery and Storage of Medication

Students may not transport any medications to or from school. The student’s parent/guardians or adult designee shall deliver any medication to be administered by school personnel to the school in its original container.

No more than a 20-day (one month) supply of medication shall be kept at school, excluding inhalers and epinephrine pens. The parent/guardian is responsible for replenishment of medication kept at school. The parent/guardian is responsible for notifying the school of any changes in or discontinuation of a prescribed medication that is being administered to the student at school. The parent/guardian must remove any medication no longer required or that remains at the end of the school year. Medications not removed by June 30th will be discarded by the school nurse.

The school nurse shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures for the appropriate and secure storage of medications kept at school, and all medications shall be stored in accordance with this procedure.

Narcotics

For their safety, we do not recommend that students attend school while taking narcotics.

Recordkeeping

School personnel and the student’s parent/guardian shall count all medication brought to school. The number of capsules, pills or tablets, and/or the volume of other medications shall be recorded.

School staff administering medication shall document each instance the medication is administered including the date, time, and dosage given.

The school health staff shall maintain a record including the parent/guardian’s request, physician’s order, details of the specific medications (including dosage and timing of medication), and documentation of each instance the medication is administered.

Records shall be retained according to the current State schedules pertaining to student health records.

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Confidentiality

To the extent legally permissible, staff members may be provided with such information regarding medication and its administration as may be in the best interest of the student.

Administration of Medication

Medication may be administered during the school day by licensed medical personnel acting within the scope of their licenses. All unlicensed personnel (principals, teachers, education technicians, school secretaries, coaches, bus drivers, etc.) who administer medication must receive training before being authorized to do so. Unlicensed personnel must be authorized to administer medication by the Superintendent/designee prior to administration of medication.

The student may return to school as recommended by the physician.

The school nurse will evaluate the unlicensed person’s skill, document the successful completion of training, and make recommendations to the Superintendent/designee pertaining to authorization of the unlicensed person to administer medication. Training that shall be acceptable for the purpose of authorization of unlicensed personnel is addressed under the section of this policy titled “Required Training of Unlicensed Personnel to Administer Medication.”

Supervision and monitoring of medication administration will be the responsibility of the school nurse.

Administration of Medication during Off-Campus Field Trips and School-Sponsored Events

The school will accommodate students requiring administration of medication during field trips or school-sponsored events as follows:

The school nurse, principal, and, as appropriate, the school unit’s Section 504 Coordinator, will determine whether an individual student’s participation is contraindicated due to the unstable/fragile nature of his/her health condition, the distance from emergency care that may be required, and/or other extraordinary circumstances. The student’s parent/guardian and primary care provider will be consulted in making this determination.

The parent/guardian must provide the appropriate number of doses needed for the duration of the field trip or school-sponsored event. Medication needed for a field trip or school sponsored event must be in the original container and shall be transported and stored in an appropriately secure manner and shall be in the custody of the staff member designated to administer the medication.

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When there are no contraindications to student participation, an appropriately trained staff member will be assigned to administer medication. Staff shall devise an appropriate back up plan for administration of the medication in the event of an emergency. The parent/guardian will be encouraged to accompany the student, if possible, to care for the student and administer medication.

All provisions of this policy shall apply to medications to be administered during off-campus field trips and school-sponsored events. As practicable, the Department of Education's "Policy for Medication Administration on School Trips" will be followed.

Student Self-Administration of Asthma Inhalers and Epinephrine Pens

Students with allergies or asthma may be authorized by the building principal, in consultation with the school nurse, to possess and self-administer emergency medication from an epinephrine pen (EpiPen) or asthma inhaler during the school day, during field trips, school-sponsored events, or while on a school bus. The student shall be authorized to possess and self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler if the following conditions have been met.

- A. The parent/guardian (or student, if 18 years of age or older) must request in writing authorization for the student to self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler.
- B. The student must have the prior written approval of his/her primary health care provider and, if the student is under the age of 18, the prior written approval of his/her parent/guardian. The written notice from the student's primary care provider must specify the name and dosage of the medication, frequency with which it may be administered, and the circumstances that may warrant its use.
- C. The student's parent/guardian must submit written verification to the school from the student's primary care provider confirming that the student has the knowledge and the skills to safely possess and use an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler.
- D. The school nurse shall evaluate the student's technique to ensure proper and effective use of an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler, taking into account the maturity and capability of the student and the circumstances under which the student will or may have to self-administer the medication.
- E. The parent/guardian will be informed that the school cannot accurately monitor the frequency and appropriateness of use when the student self-administers medication, and that the school unit will not be responsible for any injury arising from the student's self-medication.

Authorization granted to a student to possess and self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler shall be valid for the current school year only and must be renewed annually.

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A student’s authorization to possess and self-administer medication from an epinephrine pen or asthma inhaler may be limited or revoked by the building principal after consultation with the school nurse and the student’s parent/guardian if the student demonstrates inability to responsibly possess and self-administer such medication.

To the extent legally permissible, staff members may be provided with such information regarding the student’s medication and the student’s self- administration as may be in the best interest of the student.

Sharing, borrowing, or distribution of medication is prohibited. The student’s authorization to self-administer medication may be revoked and the student may be subject to disciplinary consequences for violation of this policy.

Required Training of Unlicensed Personnel to Administer Medication

Unlicensed school personnel who administer medication to students in a school setting (at school, on school transportation to or from school, on field trips, or during school-sponsored events) must be trained in the administration of medication before being authorized to carry out this responsibility. Such training must be provided by a registered professional nurse or physician and include the components specified in Department of Education Rules Chapter 40 and other applicable Department of Education standards, recommendations, programs, and/or methodologies.

The trainer shall document the training and competency of unlicensed school personnel to administer medication. Based upon a review of the documentation of training and competency in the administration of medication, the school nurse will make recommendations to the Superintendent/designee pertaining to authorization of such unlicensed personnel pertaining to authorization to administer medication.

Following the initial training, a training review and information update must be held at least annually for those unlicensed school personnel authorized to administer medication.

Delegation and Implementation

The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for developing administrative procedures and/or protocols to implement or supplement this policy.

Such procedures/protocols shall include direction regarding:

1. Safe transport of medication to and from school;
2. Administration of medication during field trips and school-sponsored events;
3. Accountability for medications, particularly those regulated by the Federal Narcotics Act;
4. Proper storage of medication at school;
5. Training of appropriate staff on administration of emergency medications;

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- 6. The procedure to follow in the event of a medication reaction;
- 7. Access to medications in case of a disaster;
- 8. The process for documenting medications given and medication errors; and
- 9. The proper disposal of medications not retrieved by parents.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. " 254; 4009(4)
Maine Department of Education Rules, Chapter 40
28 C.F.R. Part 35 (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)
34 C.F.R. Part 104 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
34 C.F.R. Part 300 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

Poland Regional High School Committee:

Laurie Levine, Chair

Date

Norm Davis

Date

Scott Sawyer

Date

Mary Ella Jones

Date

Kim Moody

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Dave Griffiths

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Karen M. Whalen

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