

## Life Saving Medication Protocol for Parents

Objective: To ensure that life-saving medications for students are provided to the school within 30 days of the start of the school year, facilitating prompt and appropriate medical intervention in case of emergencies.

### Identification of Students Requiring Life-Saving Medications:

- Parents/guardians are responsible for informing the school about students requiring life-saving medications.
- Relevant medical conditions and required medications should be clearly communicated to the school nurse.
- Examples of "life savings medications"
  - Epinephrine
  - Albuterol
  - Insulin
  - Glucagon
  - Anticonvulsants for the treatment of seizure activity

### Submission of Medication Information:

#### Physician's Authorization:

- A signed and dated order from the student's healthcare provider prescribing the life-saving medication is required.
  - A medication supply should be provided to the school nurse at the same time as the physician's order
  - A medication supply cannot be accepted by the school nurse until all appropriate documentation has been received
- The order must include information on potential side effects and emergency procedures.
- Per MGL 105 CMR 210, as needed antihistamines cannot be delegated to unlicensed personnel. Antihistamines may only be administered by a licensed healthcare provider. As such antihistamines cannot be delegated to teachers or sent out for field trips, sports or club activities.
  - The administration of antihistamines should not be included in the Emergency Action Plan for a student with a Life Threatening Allergy;
  - If the physician order states antihistamines are to be provided, a physician must provide a second order outlining the emergency care plan for field trips, after school events and club activities where antihistamines will not be available.
- Parents/guardians must submit a completed Medication Authorization Form provided by the school.

### Medication Packaging:

- All medications must be in their original, properly labeled pharmacy packaging.

### Storage of Medications:

- Medications will be stored in the nurse's office.
- In accordance with MGL 105 CMR 210, students diagnosed with a Life Threatening Allergy and/or Asthma, may be permitted to carry on their person a



supply of Epinephrine or Albuterol after a collaboration with both the student's licensed healthcare provider and the school nurse. Students may not carry any medication on their person without the knowledge of the licensed health care provider and the school nurse.

**Emergency Action Plan:**

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to work with the school nurse to develop an Emergency Action Plan detailing steps to be taken in case of a medical emergency.
- Emergency contact information should be easily accessed from the student's file and communicated to relevant school staff.

**Regular Communication:**

- Regular communication between parents/guardians and the school is essential to update medication information, dosage changes, or any modifications to the Emergency Action Plan.

**Review and Renewal:**

- Parents/guardians must review and renew the Medication Authorization Form annually or as needed, and provide updated information to the school promptly.
- Medication orders from a licensed care provider are valid for one school year. Updated medication orders must be provided at the start of every school year.
- The diagnosis of a life threatening condition with medication in school will carry over from year to year unless documentation for a licensed health care provider stating that the diagnosis has changed or the medication is no longer needed is provided to the school nurse. *(i.e. If the nurse is aware that your child is allergic to peanuts and has an epi pen, it will be expected that each year a medication order, supply and care plan will be provided at the start of school.)*

**Compliance**

- In the event that a prescribed life saving medication is not provided for a student within 30 days of the start of school:
  - The prescribing provider will be notified by the school nurse that medication has not been provided;
  - If an order has been provided, the order will be invalidated at that time of provider notification;
  - An alternate emergency action plan will be developed by the school nurse in which the course of action will be the activation of EMS (911) for transport to the closest emergency care facility in the event of suspected or known allergen exposure;
  - The alternate Emergency Action Plan will be provided to the prescribing provider, and the nurse will maintain communication with the prescribing provider on a monthly basis for the status of the medication supply and in school care plan.

By adhering to this protocol, parents and the school can work together to create a safe and supportive environment for students requiring life-saving medications.







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