

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AND MONITORING HEALTH CONDITIONS

Definitions

Authorized health care provider means an individual who is licensed by the State of California to prescribe or order medication, including, but not limited to, a physician or physician assistant. (Education Code 49423; 5 CCR 601)

Other designated school personnel means any individual employed by the district, including a nonmedical school employee, who has volunteered or consented to administer the medication or otherwise assist the student and who may legally administer the medication to the student or assist the student in the administration of the medication. (5 CCR 601, 621)

Medication may include not only a substance dispensed in the United States by prescription, but also a substance that does not require a prescription, such as over-the-counter remedies, nutritional supplements, and herbal remedies. (5 CCR 601)

Emergency medical assistance for a student suffering an epileptic seizure means the administration of an emergency anti-seizure medication such as diazepam rectal gel and other emergency medications approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for patients suffering from epileptic seizures. (Education Code 49414.7; 5 CCR 621)

Notifications to Parents/Guardians

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians of the options available to students who need to take prescribed medication during the school day and the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians regarding those options. (Education Code 49480)

(cf. 5145.6 – Notifications Required by Law)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parents/guardians of any student on a continuing medication regimen for a non-episodic condition of the following requirements: (Education Code 49480)

1. The parent/guardian is required to inform the school nurse or other designated employee of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician.

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2. With the parent/guardian's consent, the school nurse or other designated employee may communicate with the student's physician regarding the medication and its effects and may counsel school personnel regarding the possible effects of the medication on the student's physical, intellectual, and social behavior, as well as possible behavioral signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omission, or overdose.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the parent/guardian of any student who may need medication during the school day shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Each school year, providing parent/guardian and authorized health care provider written statements as described in the sections "Parent/Guardian Statement" and "Health Care Provider Statement" below. In addition, the parent/guardian shall provide a new authorized health care provider's statement if the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for administration changes. (Education Code 49414.5, 49414.7, 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 600, 626)
2. If the student is on a continuing medication regimen for a non-episodic condition, informing the school nurse or other designated certificated employee of the medication being taken, the current dosage, and the name of the supervising physician. (Education Code 49480)
3. If the student suffers from epilepsy, notifying the principal or designee whenever the student has had an emergency anti-seizure medication administered to him/her within the past four hours on a school day. (Education Code 49414.7)
4. Providing medications in properly labeled, original containers along with the authorized health care provider's instructions. For prescribed or ordered medication, the container also shall bear the name and telephone number of the pharmacy, the student's identification, and the name and phone number of the authorized health care provider. (5 CCR 606)

Parent/Guardian Statement

When district employees are to administer medication to a student, the parent/guardian's written statement shall:

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1. Identify the student.
2. Grant permission for an authorized district representative to communicate directly with the student's authorized health care provider and/or pharmacist, as may be necessary, regarding the health care provider's written statement or any other questions that may arise with regard to the medication.
3. Contain an acknowledgment that the parent/guardian understands how district employees will administer the medication or otherwise assist the student in its administration.
4. Contain an acknowledgment that the parent/guardian understands his/her responsibilities to enable district employees to administer or otherwise assist the student in the administration of medication, including, but not limited to, the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide a written statement from the authorized health care provider, to ensure that the medication is delivered to the school in a proper container by an individual legally authorized to be in possession of the medication, and to provide all necessary supplies and equipment.
5. Contain an acknowledgment that the parent/guardian understands that he/she may terminate the consent for the administration of the medication or for otherwise assisting the student in the administration of medication at any time.

In addition to the requirements in items #1-5 above, if a parent/guardian has requested that his/her child be allowed to carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine or prescription inhaled asthma medication, the parent/guardian's written statement shall: (Education Code 49423, 49423.1)

1. Consent to the self-administration.
2. Release the district and school personnel from civil liability if the student suffers an adverse reaction as a result of self-administering the medication.

In addition to the requirements in items #1-5 above, if a parent/guardian wishes to designate an individual who is not an employee of the district to administer medication to his/her child, the parent/guardian's written statement shall clearly identify the individual and shall state:

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1. The individual's willingness to accept the designation.
2. That the individual is permitted to be on the school site.
3. Any limitations on the individual's authority.

Health Care Provider Statement

When any district employee is to administer prescribed medication to a student, or when a student is to be allowed to carry and self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine or prescribed diabetes or asthma medication during school hours, the authorized health care provider's written statement shall include:

1. Clear identification of the student. (Education Code 49414.7, 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 602, 626)
2. The name of the medication. (Education Code 49414.7, 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 602, 626)
3. The method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken. (Education Code 49414.7, 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 602, 626)
4. If a parent/guardian has requested that his/her child be allowed to self-administer medication, confirmation that the student is able to self-administer the medication. (Education Code 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 602)

(cf. 5141.23 – Asthma Management)

(cf. 5141.27 – Food Allergies / Special Dietary Needs)

5. For medication that is to be administered on an as-needed basis, the specific symptoms that would necessitate administration of the medication, allowable frequency for administration, and indications for referral for medical evaluation.
6. Possible side effects of the medication.
7. Name, address, telephone number, and signature of the student's authorized health care provider.

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When authorizing a district employee to administer emergency anti-seizure medication to a student, the authorized health care provider's written statement shall also include the following: (Education Code 49414.7; 5 CCR 626)

1. Detailed seizure symptoms, including frequency, type, or length of seizures that identify when the administration of the medication becomes necessary.
2. Any potential adverse responses by the student and recommended mitigation actions, including when to call emergency services.
3. A protocol for observing the student after a seizure, including, but not limited to, whether he/she should rest in the school office or return to his/her class and the length of time he/she should be under direct observation.
4. A statement that following a seizure, a school administrator or other staff member shall contact the school nurse and the student's parent/guardian to continue the observation plan.

District Responsibilities

The school nurse or other designated school personnel shall:

1. Administer or assist in administering medications in accordance with the authorized health care provider's written statement.
2. Accept delivery of medications from parents/guardians and count and record them upon receipt.
3. Maintain a list of students needing medication during the school day, including those authorized to self-administer medications, and note on the list the type of medication and the times and dosage to be administered.
4. Maintain for each student a medication log which may:
 - a. Specify the student's name, medication, dose, method of administration, time of administration during the regular school day, date(s) on which the student is required to take the medication, and the authorized health care provider's name and contact information.
 - b. Contain space for daily recording of the date, time, and amount of medication administered, and the signature of the individual administering the medication.

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5. Maintain for each student a medication record which may include the authorized health care provider's written statement, the parent/guardian's written statement, the medication log, and any other written documentation related to the administration of medication to the student.
6. Ensure that student confidentiality is appropriately maintained.

(cf. 5125 – Student Records; Confidentiality)

7. Coordinate and, as appropriate, ensure the administration of medication during field trips and other school-related activities.

(cf. 6145.2 – Interscholastic Competition)

(cf. 6153 – School-Sponsored Trips)

8. Report to a student's parent/guardian and the site administrator any refusal by the student to take his/her medication.
9. Keep all medication to be administered by the district in an appropriate locked drawer or cabinet, refrigerator or other designated storage area.
10. As needed, communicate with a student's authorized health care provider and/or pharmacist regarding the medication and its effects.
11. Counsel other designated school personnel regarding the possible effects of a medication on a student's physical, intellectual, and social behavior, as well as possible behavioral signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omission, or overdose.
12. Ensure that any unused, discontinued, or outdated medication is returned to the student's parent/guardian at the end of the school year or, if the medication cannot be returned, dispose of it in accordance with state laws and local ordinances.
13. Provide immediate medical assistance if needed and report to the site administrator, the student's parent/guardian, and, if necessary, the student's authorized health care provider any instance when a medication is not administered properly, including administration of the wrong medication or failure to administer the medication in accordance with authorized health care provider's written statement.

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Additional Requirements for Management of Epileptic Seizures

In addition to applicable provisions in the sections above, the Superintendent or designee shall make arrangements for assisting students with epilepsy who may suffer a seizure at school. Such arrangements shall include the following: (Education Code 49414.7; 5 CCR 620-627)

1. Whenever a parent/guardian requests that a nonmedical district employee be trained to provide emergency medical assistance to his/her child, notification to the parent/guardian that the child may qualify for services or accommodations pursuant to 20 USC 1400-1482, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or 29 USC 794, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

(cf. 6164.4 – Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

(cf. 6164.6 – Identification, Evaluation and Education of Students Who are Qualified Disabled Persons within the Meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)

The Superintendent or designee shall assist the parent/guardian to explore that option and shall encourage him/her to adopt the option if the student is determined to be eligible for such service or accommodation.

2. The creation of an individualized health plan, seizure action plan, or other appropriate health plan designed to acknowledge and prepare for the student's health care needs in school, if his/her parent/guardian refuses to have him/her assessed for services or accommodations under IDEA or Section 504.

(cf. 6159 – Individualized Education Program)

3. The distribution of an electronic notice to school staff no more than twice per school year, for each student whose parent/guardian has requested provision of emergency medical assistance pursuant to Education Code 49414.7. The notice shall be in bold print and, in accordance with Education Code 49414.7, shall contain a description of the request for a volunteer school employee, the training that such volunteer school employee will receive, the voluntary nature of the program, and the timelines for the volunteer school employee to rescind his/her offer.

If no employee volunteers to administer emergency anti-seizure medication to a student, the Superintendent or designee shall again notify the student's parent/guardian of the option to have the student assessed for services and accommodations under IDEA or Section 504.

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4. An assurance that any employee who volunteers to administer an emergency anti-seizure medication shall receive from a licensed health care professional the training specified in 5 CCR 623 before administering such medication.

When a trained employee has not administered an emergency anti-seizure medication to a student within two years after completing the training and a student who may need the administration of an emergency anti-seizure medication is enrolled in the school, the employee shall be retrained in order to retain the ability to administer an emergency anti-seizure medication.

5. An assurance that any training provided for district employees who volunteer to administer emergency anti-seizure medication to students shall include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Recognition and treatment of different types of seizures.
 - b. Administration of an emergency anti-seizure medication.
 - c. Basic emergency follow-up procedures, including, but not limited to, a requirement for the principal or designee to call the emergency 911 telephone number and to contact the student's parent/guardian, but not necessarily to transport the student to an emergency room.
 - d. Techniques and procedures to ensure student privacy.

(cf. 5022 – Student and Family Privacy Rights)

6. A process for notifying the credentialed school nurse, or the Superintendent or designee as applicable, whenever an employee administers an emergency anti-seizure medication to a student at a school site.
7. Supervision of volunteer school employees by a licensed health care professional, in accordance with 5 CCR 62.

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