

## **Student Medication Guidelines**

### **STUDENT SELF-MEDICATION**

Students may be authorized to carry on their person and independently take their own medication (prescription or nonprescription), provided the parent/guardian has written approval on file with school personnel. Such approval shall assure school personnel that the child has been properly instructed in self-administering the medication. If prescription medication is involved, written authorization of the student's health care practitioner also is required.

### **ALL OTHER MEDICATIONS**

1. Medication should be given at home when possible. Medication that must be given at school should be brought to school by the parent/guardian whenever possible. Medication that is sent to school with the student should be transported in the original container placed in a sealed envelope and given to designated school personnel immediately upon arrival.
2. Prescribed oral medications in pill or tablet form shall be counted and the number recorded on the Medication Administration Record.
3. Except for emergency medications (including, but not limited to FDA approved seizure rescue medications and injectable epinephrine devices) and medications approved for students to carry for self-medication purposes all medications shall be kept in a safe, locked, secure place accessible only to the responsible authorized school personnel. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be stored in a separate refrigerator in a supervised area.
4. School personnel who administer medication shall arrange for the child to take the medication at the proper time.
5. Unless otherwise approved to self-medicate, students are to be supervised by an authorized individual when taking medication. The person supervising the administration of medication must keep a written record.

### **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

Parents/guardians and health care providers shall complete the required forms before any person administers prescription medication to a student or before a student self-medicates.

Prescription medications shall be administered only as prescribed on the physician/health care provider's written authorization. Prescription medications shall be sent to school in one (1) week increments unless otherwise approved by the Principal or designee. Parent/guardian shall have the ultimate responsibility to provide the school with an adequate supply of medication to enable the orders to be followed.

All prescription medication, original or refill, should be sent to school in a pharmacy labeled container that includes the student's name, date dispensed, medication, dosage, strength, date of expiration, and directions for use including frequency, duration, and route of administration, prescriber's name, and pharmacy name, address, and phone number. Labels that have been altered in any way will not be accepted. Per [KRS 218A.210](#), "A person to whom or for whose use any controlled substance has been presented, sold, or dispensed by a practitioner or other persons authorized under this chapter, may lawfully possess it only in the container in which it was delivered to him by the person selling or dispensing the same."

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### **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Changes in the dosage and/or times of administration must be received in the form of a written order from the physician/health care provider OR a new prescription bottle from the pharmacy indicating the change and a note from the student's parent/guardian.

### **NONPRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS**

Nonprescription (over-the-counter) medications may be accepted on an individual basis as provided by the parent or legal guardian when a completed authorization to give medication form is on file. The medication should be in the original container, dated upon receipt, and given no more than three (3) consecutive days without an order from the physician/health care provider. OTC medication shall not be administered beyond its expiration date.

### **DOCUMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATION**

Except for medications approved for self-administration, all medication given must be immediately documented on a medication log. Records must be kept on file in the student's cumulative folder. Documentation should be complete, reflecting beginning and ending dates and notations of missed doses and absences. Subject to confidentiality requirements in Policy 09.14 and accompanying procedures, medication recording sheets shall be filed in the student's cumulative folder when completed or when the medication is changed/discontinued.

### **DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICATION**

Notice shall be mailed to the parent/guardian prior to the end of the school year informing them that their child has medication remaining and that it must be picked up by the parent/guardian. If the medication is not retrieved, the school nurse or designated staff member, with a witness present, shall count the number of any pills or tablets remaining and document the amount on the Medication Log. Leftover prescription medication may then be mixed with a designated substance, such as glue for pills and kitty litter for liquids, and placed in a trash receptacle or destroyed in accordance with current health care standards. Both parties shall sign the Medication Log when this is completed. All medications shall be destroyed if the parent/guardian does not pick them up.

### **MEDICATION REFUSAL**

If a child refuses to take medication or is uncooperative during medication administration, documentation shall be made, the parent/guardian and school nurse (if appropriate) will be contacted and medication administration may be omitted. If necessary, a conference may be scheduled with the parent/guardian to resolve the conflict.

### **MEDICATION ERROR**

If an error in the administration of medication is recognized, initiate the following steps:

1. Keep the student in the first-aid location. If the student has already returned to class when the error is recognized, have the student accompanied to the first-aid location.
2. Assess the student's status and document.

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**MEDICATION ERROR (CONTINUED)**

3. Identify the incorrect dose/type of medication taken by the student.
4. Immediately notify the school administrator and school nurse, if appropriate, of the error, who shall notify the student's parent/guardian.
5. Notify the student's physician/health care provider.
6. If unable to contact the physician/health care provider, contact the Poison Control Center for instructions.
7. Carefully record all circumstances and actions taken, including instructions from the Poison Control Center or physician/health care provider, and the student's status.
8. Complete a "Medication Administration Incident Report" form.

**RELATED POLICY:**

09.2241

**RELATED PROCEDURES:**

09.2241 AP.21

09.2241 AP.22

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