

# ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

## MEDICATION POLICY

### 2023-2024

Approved by: Rev. S. R. Buckley, Jr.

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### MEDICATION POLICY

#### I. Management of the Medication Administration Program

- A. The school nurse shall be the supervisor of the medication administration program in the school.
- B. The school nurse, the school physician, and the school health advisory committee, if established, shall develop and propose to the School Committee policies and procedures relating to the administration of medications.

#### C. Medication Orders/Parental Consent:

- 1. The school nurse shall ensure that there is a proper medication order from a licensed prescriber which is renewed as necessary, including the beginning of each academic year. A telephone order or an order for any change in medication shall be received only by the **school nurse**. Any such verbal order must be followed by a written order within three school days. Whenever possible, the medication order shall be obtained and the medication administration plan shall be developed before the student enters or re-enters school.

a. In accordance with standard medical practice a medication order from a license prescriber shall contain:

- 1. the student's name;
- 2. the name and signature of the licensed prescriber and business and emergency phone numbers;
- 3. the name of the medication;
- 4. the route and dosage of medication;
- 5. the frequency and time of medication administration;
- 6. the date of the order and discontinuation date;
- 7. a diagnosis and any other medical condition(s) requiring medication, **if not a violation of confidentiality or if not contrary to the request of a parent, guardian or student to keep confidential;**
- 8. specific directions for administration.

b. Every effort shall be made to obtain from the licensed prescriber the following additional information, If appropriate:

- 1. any special side effects, contraindications and adverse reactions to be observed;
- 2. any other medications being taken by the student;
- 3. The date of the next scheduled visit, if known

#### c. Special Medication Situations

- 1. For short-term medications, i.e., those requiring administration for ten school days or fewer, the pharmacy-labeled container may be used in lieu of a licensed prescriber order; if the nurse has a question, she may request a licensed prescriber order. Written parent/guardian authorization is required.
- 2. For "over-the-counter" medications, i.e., nonprescription medications, the school

nurses shall follow Board of Registration in Nursing protocols regarding administration of over-the-counter medications in schools.

3. Investigational new drugs may be administered in the schools with:
  - (a) a written order by a licensed prescriber,
  - (b) written consent of the parent or guardian, and
  - (c) a pharmacy-labeled container for dispensing. If there is a question, the school nurse may seek consultation and/or approval from the school physician to administer the medication in the school setting.
4. The school nurse shall ensure that there is a written authorization by the parent or guardian which contains:
  - a. the parent or guardian's printed name, signature and an emergency phone number;
  - b. a list of all medications the student is currently receiving, **if not a violation of confidentiality or contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or student that such medications are not documented;**
  - c. approval to have the school nurse or school personnel, designated by the school nurse, administer the medication;
  - d. persons to be notified in case of medication emergency, in addition to the parent or guardian and licensed prescriber.

D. Medication Administration Plan:

1. Prior to the initial administration of the medication, the school nurse shall assess the child's status and develop a medication administration plan which includes:
  - a. the name of the student;
  - b. an order from a licensed prescriber, including business and emergency telephone numbers;
  - c. the signed authorization of the parent or guardian, including home and business telephone numbers;
  - d. any known allergies to food or medications;
  - e. the diagnosis, **unless a violation of confidentiality or the parent, guardian or student requests that it not be documented;**
  - f. the name of the medication;
  - g. the dosage of the medication, frequency of administration and route of administration;
  - h. any specific directions for administration;
  - i. any possible side effects, adverse reactions or contraindications;
  - j. the quantity of medication to be received by the school from the parent or guardian;
  - k. the required storage conditions;
  - l. the duration of the prescription;
  - m. the designation of unlicensed school personnel, if any, who will administer the medication to the student in the absence of the nurse, and plans for back-up if the designated persons are available;

- n. plans, if any, for teaching self-administration of the medication;
  - o. with parental permission, other persons, including teachers, to be notified of medication administration and possible adverse effects of the medication;
  - p. a list of other medications being taken by the student, **if not a violation of confidentiality or contrary to the request of the parent, guardian or student that such medication not be documented;**
  - q. when appropriate, the location where the administration of the medication will take place;
  - r. a plan for monitoring the effects of the medication;
  - s. provision for medication administration in the case of field trips and other short-term special school events. Every effort shall be made to obtain a nurse to accompany students or the parent/guardian of the student receiving medication may accompany the student and administer the medication.
- E. The school nurse shall ensure the positive identification of each student who receives the medication.
- F. The school nurse shall communicate (with input from school staff) significant observations relating to medication effectiveness and adverse reactions or other harmful effects to the child's parent or and/or licensed prescriber.
- G. In accordance with standard nursing practice, the school nurse may refuse to administer or allow to be administered any medication, which, based on her/his individual assessment and professional judgment, has the potential to be harmful, dangerous or inappropriate. In these cases, the parent/guardian and the school nurse shall notify the licensed prescriber immediately and the reason for refusal explained.
- H. For the purposes of medication administration, the Licensed Practical Nurse functions under the general supervision of the school nurse who has delegation authority. (Medication administration is within the scope of practice for Licensed Practical Nurse under M.G.L. Chapter 112.)
- I. The school nurse shall have a current pharmaceutical reference available for her/his use, such as the *Physician's Desk Reference (PDR), U.S.P.D.I. (Dispensing Information), Facts and Comparisons or a suitable Nurse Drug Guide. (Available on line @PDR.Net)*

## II. Self-Administration of Medications

"Self-administration" means that the student is able to consume or apply medication in the manner directed by the licensed prescriber, without additional assistance or direction.

A student may be responsible for taking his/her own medication after the school nurse has determined that the following requirements are met:

- A. the conditions under which medication may be self-administered the student, school nurse and parent/guardian, where appropriate, enter into an agreement, which specifies;
- B. the school nurse, as appropriate, develops a medication administration plan, which contains only those elements necessary to ensure safe self-administration of medication;
- C. the student's health status and abilities have been evaluated by the school nurse who then deems self-administration safe and appropriate. As necessary, the school shall observe initial self-administration of the medication;
- D. the school nurse is reasonably assured that the student is able to identify the appropriate medication, knows the frequency and time of day for which the medication is ordered;

- E. there is written authorization from the student's parent or guardian that the student may self-medicate, unless the student has consented to treatment under M.G.L. c. 112, s. 12F or other authority permitting the student to consent to medical treatment without parental permission;
- F. if requested by the school nurse, the licensed prescriber provides a written order for self-administration;
- G. the student follows a procedure for documentation of self-administration of medication;
- H. the school nurse establishes a policy for the safe storage of self-administered medication and, as necessary, consults with teachers, the student and parent/guardian, if appropriate, to determine a safe place for storing the medication for the individual student, while providing for accessibility if the student's health needs require. This information shall be included in the medication administration plan. In the case of an inhaler or other preventive or emergency medication, whenever possible, a backup supply of the medication shall be kept in the health room or a second readily available location;
- I. The student's self-administration is monitored based on his/her abilities and health status. Monitoring may include teaching the student the correct way of taking the medication, reminding the student to take the medication, visual observation to ensure compliance, recording that the medication was taken, and notifying the parent/guardian or licensed prescriber of any side effects, variation from the plan, or the student's refusal or failure to take the medication;
- J. With parental/guardian and student permission, as appropriate, the school nurse may inform appropriate teachers and administrators that the student is self-administering a medication.

### **III. Handling, Storage and Disposal of Medications**

- A. A parent, guardian or parent/guardian-designated responsible adult shall deliver all medication to be administered by school personnel or to be taken by self-medicating students, if required by the self administration agreement, to the school nurse or other responsible person designated by the school nurse.
  - 1. The medication must be in a pharmacy or manufacturer labeled container.
  - 2. the school nurse or other responsible person receiving the medication shall document the quantity of the medication delivered.
  - 3. In extenuating circumstances, as determined by the school nurse, the medication may be delivered by other persons; provided, however, that the nurse is notified in advance by the parent or guardian of the arrangement and the quantity of medication being delivered to the school.
- B. All medications shall be stored in their original pharmacy or manufacturer labeled containers and, in such manner, as to render them safe and effective. Expiration dates shall be checked.
- C. All medications to be administered by school personnel shall be kept in a securely locked cabinet used exclusively for medications, which is kept locked except when opened to obtain medications. The cabinet shall be substantially constructed and anchored securely to a solid surface. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be stored in either a locked box in a refrigerator or in a locked refrigerator, maintained at temperatures of 38 to 42 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D. Access to stored medications shall be limited to persons authorized to administer medications and to self-medicating students. Access to keys and knowledge of the location of keys shall be restricted to the maximum extent possible. Students who are self-medicating shall not have access to other students'
- E. Parents or guardians may retrieve the medications from the school at any time.
- F. No more than thirty (30) school day supply of the medication for a student shall be stored at the school.
- G. Where possible, all unused, discontinued or outdated medications shall be returned to the parent or guardian and the return appropriately documented. In extenuating circumstances, with parental consent, when possible, such medications may be destroyed by the school nurse in accordance with

any applicable policies of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Food and Drugs. All medications should be returned at the end of the school year.

#### **IV. Documentation and Record-Keeping <sup>5</sup>**

A. Each school where medications are administered by school personnel shall maintain a medication administration record for each student who receives medication during school hours.

1. Such records at a minimum shall include a daily log and a medication administration plan, including the medication order and parent/guardian authorization.
  2. The medication administration plan shall include the information as described in Section 210.005 (E) of the Regulations Governing the Administration of Prescription Medications in Public and Private Schools.
  3. The daily log shall contain:
    - a. the dose or amount of medication administered;
    - b. the date and time of administration or omission of administration, including the reason for omission;
    - c. the full signature of the nurse administering the medication.
  4. The school nurse shall document in the medication administration record significant observations of the medication's effectiveness, as appropriate, and any adverse reactions or other harmful effects, as well as any action taken.
  5. All documentation shall be recorded in ink and shall not be altered.
  6. With the consent of the parent, guardian, or student where appropriate, the completed medication administration record and records pertinent to self-administration shall be filed in the student's cumulative health record. When the parent, guardian or student, where appropriate, objects, these records shall be regarded as confidential medical notes and shall be kept confidential.
- B. The school district shall comply with the Department of Public Health's reporting requirement for medication administration in the schools.
- C. The Department of Public Health may inspect any individual student medication record or record relating to the administration or storage of medications without prior notice to ensure compliance with the Regulations Governing the Administration of Prescription Medications in Public and Private Schools

#### **V. Reporting and Documentation of Medication Errors**

A medication error includes any failure to administer medication as prescribed for a particular student, including failure to administer the medication:

1. within appropriate time frames (the appropriate time frame should be addressed in the medication administration plan);
  2. in the correct dosage;
  3. in accordance with accepted practice;
  4. to the correct student.
- B. In the event of a medication error, the school nurse shall notify the parent or guardian immediately. (The school nurse shall document the effort to reach the parent or guardian.) If there is a question of potential harm to the student, the nurse shall also notify the student's licensed prescriber or school physician.
- C. Medication errors shall be documented by the school nurse on the accident/incident report form. These reports shall be retained in the office of the Nurse Supervisor and the/or the student health

record. They shall be made available to the Department of Public Health upon request. All medication errors resulting in serious illness requiring medical care shall be reported to the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family and Community Health. All suspected diversion or tampering of drugs shall be reported to the Department of Public Health, Division of Food and Drugs.

- D. The nurse supervisor and the school nurse shall review reports of medication errors and take necessary steps to ensure appropriate medication administration in the future.

## **VI. Response to Medication Emergencies:**

Refer to the Assumption School's Emergency Protocol and Emergency Response Policy for handling all health emergencies. Such emergency policies shall contain (1) local emergency response system telephone numbers (including ambulance, poison control numbers, local emergency care providers, etc.), (2) persons to be notified, e.g., parent/guardian, licensed prescriber, etc., (3) names of persons in the school trained to provide first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, (4) scheduled programs for staff to be trained in first aid and CPR, (5) provision of necessary supplies and equipment and (6) reporting requirements.

The school nurse shall develop procedures for responding to medication emergencies, i.e., any reaction or condition related to administration of medication which poses an immediate threat to the health or well-being of the student. These procedures shall be consistent with the school's policy for handling all health emergencies and shall include maintaining a list of persons to be notified in case of a medication emergency.

## **VII. Dissemination of Information to Parents or Guardians Regarding Administration of Medication**

Refer to the appendix in the Assumption School Student Handbook and on the school's webpage.

## **VIII. Policy Review and Revision**

Review and revision of these policies and procedures shall occur as needed but at least every two years. **Policies based on 105 CMR 210.000**

**August 2023**

Medication policy