

SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

No: 210

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: USE OF LIFE SAVING MEDICATIONS

ADOPTED: JULY 13, 1998

REVISED: JUNE 22, 2005; DECEMBER 13, 2006; JANUARY 11, 2012

210. USE OF LIFE SAVING MEDICATIONS	
1. Purpose	<p>The Board shall not be responsible for the diagnosis or treatment of student illness. The administration of life saving medication in accordance with the direction of a parent and physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician's assistant with prescriptive privileges or dentist to a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available during school hours.</p>
2. Definition	<p>For purposes of this policy, medication shall include all medications requiring a prescription and all over-the-counter medications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Long-term medications will include those prescribed by a physician or dentist for longer than two (2) weeks or on an as need basis throughout the school year.2. Short-term medications will include those prescribed by a physician or dentist dated within the past two (2) weeks and to be administered no more than ten (10) consecutive school days.3. Standing orders are medications prescribed by the school physician which can be administered to students by the certified school nurse throughout the school year.4. Self-administered medications shall be limited to inhalers, epipens, and other life saving medications and the equipment necessary for administration. Student possession of self-administered medications must be authorized by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician's assistant with prescriptive privileges.

<p>3. Authority SC 510 Title 22 Sec. 12.41</p>	<p>Before any medication may be administered to or taken by any student during school hours, the Board shall require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A written request from the parent which shall give permission for such administration and relieve the Board and its employees of liability for administration of medication.2. A written order from the prescribing physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician's assistant with prescriptive privileges, or dentist which shall include the purpose of the medication, dosage, route of administration, the time at which or special circumstances under which the medication shall be administered, length of period for which medication is prescribed, possible side effects of medication, and authorization for self-administration of medication for life-threatening conditions <p>The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the administration of medication.</p> <p><u>Personnel to Administer Medication</u></p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The school nurse assigned to the building to which the student is assigned is designated as the primary person responsible for the administration of the medication.</p> <p>In the absence of the certified school nurse or other nursing professional licensed to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the following staffing pattern is to be followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The substitute school nurse will be responsible for the administration of all medications.2. If after the complete list of substitute nursing personnel has been exhausted and no substitute is available, licensed personnel within the District assigned as health room assistants will be reassigned for that day to the uncovered building. Note that their hours would be the same.

<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>3. In those instances where Steps 1 and 2 fail to procure a licensed professional and a student must take medication, the building principal will supervise the self-administration of the medication as outlined in the addendum. These medications will be limited to life saving medications and those stipulated in an IEP or a 504 Agreement.</p> <p>Medications to be administered outside the health suite, e.g., field trips, will be limited to self-administered medications as delineated under Definitions.</p> <p><u>General Procedure</u></p> <p>Medications shall be securely stored and kept in the original labeled container.</p> <p>The certified school nurse shall maintain a daily log of all medications being administered to students, except for those students self-administering medications for life-threatening conditions. The daily log shall include the student's name, the prescribing physician, the dosage and timing of medication, and a notation of each instance or administration instance.</p> <p>The certified school nurse will send a copy of the medication form home at the end of each school year in cases where it is known that continuing medication is needed for students already enrolled. It is to be returned by the first day of the next school year.</p> <p>As new students enroll, the certified school nurse will send the medication procedure form home if the need for medication is determined.</p> <p>All medications shall be brought to the school by the parent or responsible adult in the original container and turned over to the certified school nurse or other nursing personnel.</p> <p>Students will not be permitted to take medication within the District prior to compliance with this policy.</p> <p>The daily log of the medication taken or administered will be kept on file in the nurse's office except for students maintaining their own self-administration log.</p>
	<p>The Shaler Area School District will develop a procedure which shall ensure that all students to receive medication will receive the medication regardless of whether the regular or substitute nurse is on duty. The nurse's daily log shall include an up-to-date listing of the students who are required to take medication. The school entity bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medications are taken by students who are self-administering medications for life-threatening conditions.</p> <p>Certified school nurses will attempt to notify parents in the event as needed medications (PRN) are administered to students.</p>

<p>Pol. 227</p>	<p><u>Procedure for Student Carrying Medication</u></p> <p>Medications a student must carry and possess at all times due to a sudden need for the medication's use, such as an inhaler for asthma, shall first be brought to the school nurse by the student's parent or guardian so that the school nurse can note in the student's record that such a medication has been prescribed for the student by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant with prescriptive privileges, or dentist, and the use of such medication has been authorized by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and that the medication must be carried by the student in the event of a sudden need for the medication that makes keeping and storing the medication in the nurse's office impractical.</p> <p>Each of the student's teachers shall be informed in writing, by the school nurse, of each such student who has in his/her possession medication that the student is required to carry during school hours.</p> <p>If the medication is prescribed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant with prescriptive privileges, when the medication is first brought to the school, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must also bring a letter or note from the prescribing physician stating that it is medically necessary for the student to carry the medication with him or her at all times.</p> <p>If the student permits another student to take or ingest prescription medication or use his/her medication administration equipment the student has been authorized to carry with him/her under this subsection, that shall be considered a violation of the Drug Policy of the District. Any person who witnesses a student permit or allow another student to take his/her prescription medication, shall immediately inform the certified school nurse, or other professional employee, or the principal. Violation of this subsection will result in notice being sent to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) that the student has violated the Drug Policy of the District.</p>
<p>Pol. 227</p>	<p>If a student authorized to carry prescription medication under this subsection violates the Drug Policy of the District by permitting another student to take or ingest the medication or use the necessary equipment for administration, the school nurse shall consult with the prescribing physician apprising the physician of the student's misuse of the medication, and ascertain if the medication may be made available to the student without the student being authorized the carry the medication.</p>

Self-Administration Addendum

In the absence of a licensed professional, the principal must:

1. have access to the student's medication.
2. be able to read the medication label in the language in which the medication label is written and be able to follow the label directions.
3. be available during medication self-administration.
4. remind the student when to take the medication.
5. obtain the necessary equipment and medication.
6. procure water for taking oral medications.
7. open the medication's container or bottle, if necessary.
8. place the container(s) of medication in close proximity to the student.
9. co-sign the medication sheet with the student.
10. recognize that unlicensed monitoring excludes measuring, pouring, or administering medications, preparing syringes for injections, or the injection of medications except in life-threatening circumstances.
11. the certified school nurse is responsible for informing the building principal as to any deviations from or changes in the regular schedule, route, or dosage of administration.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1402

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.41

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