

Administering Medications to Students

School personnel shall not administer prescription or nonprescription medications to students unless appropriate administration cannot reasonably be accomplished outside of school hours and the student's parent/guardian is not available to administer the medication during the school day.

Medication may be administered to students by school personnel whom a registered nurse has trained and delegated the task of administering such medication. For purposes of this policy, the term "medication" includes both prescription medication and nonprescription medication. The term "nonprescription medication" includes but is not limited to over-the-counter medications, homeopathic and herbal medications, vitamins and nutritional supplements. Medication may be administered to students by the school nurse or other school designee only when the following requirements are met:

1. Medication shall be in the original properly labeled container. If it is a prescription medication, the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, how often it is to be administered, and name of the prescribing health care practitioner shall be printed on the container.
2. The school shall have received written permission to administer the medication from the student's health care practitioner with prescriptive authority under Colorado law.
3. The school shall have received written permission from the student's parent/guardian to administer the medication to the student.
4. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for providing all medication to be administered to the student.

NOTE 1: State law permits local boards of education to adopt a policy authorizing a student to possess and self-administer any medication prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner on school grounds, upon a school bus, or at any school-sponsored event. C.R.S. 22-1-119.3; 1 CCR 301-68, Rule 6.00. However, such policy must prohibit students from possessing or self-administering medical marijuana on school grounds or at any school-sponsored event. C.R.S. 22-1-119.3 (3)(c). A board that chooses to adopt such a policy is then exempt from the requirements of the Colorado Schoolchildren's Asthma, Food Allergy, and Anaphylaxis Health Management Act (the "Act"). C.R.S. 22-1-119.3 (5).

This sample policy does not permit students to self-carry any prescription medication and instead reflects the Act's requirements for self-administration of medication for asthma, allergy or anaphylaxis only. Districts should consult with their own legal counsel if they wish to permit students to self-carry and self-administer any prescription medication.

Self-administration of medication for asthma, allergies or anaphylaxis

A student with asthma, a food allergy, other severe allergies, or a related, life-threatening condition may possess and self-administer medication to treat the student's asthma, food or other allergy, anaphylaxis or related, life-threatening condition. Self-administration of such medication may occur during school hours, at school-sponsored activities, or while in transit to and from school or a school-sponsored activity. Student possession and self-administration of such medication shall be in accordance with regulation JLCD-R.

Authorization for a student to possess and self-administer medication to treat the student's asthma, food or other allergy, anaphylaxis or other related, life-threatening condition may be limited or revoked by the school principal after consultation with the school nurse and the student's parent/guardian if the student demonstrates an inability to responsibly possess and self-administer such medication.

Student possession, use, distribution, sale or being under the influence of medication inconsistent with this policy shall be considered a violation of policy JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students and may subject the student to disciplinary consequences, including suspension and/or expulsion, in accordance with policy JICH.

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 12-38-132 (*delegation of nursing tasks*)
C.R.S. 22-1-119 (*no liability for adverse drug reactions/side effects*)
C.R.S. 22-1-119.5 (*Colorado Schoolchildren's Asthma, Food Allergy, and Anaphylaxis Health Management Act*)
C.R.S. 22-2-135 (*Colorado School Children's Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act*)
C.R.S. 24-10-101 *et seq.* (*Colorado Governmental Immunity Act*)
1 CCR 301-68 (*State Board of Education rules regarding Administration of Colorado School Children's Asthma and Anaphylaxis Act and Colorado School Children's Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act*)
6 CCR 1010-6, Rule 9-105 (*regulations*)

CROSS REF.: JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
JLCDA*, Students with Food Allergies
JLCE, First Aid and Emergency Medical Care

NOTE: The Colorado Department of Education (CDE), in collaboration with various school districts and other organizations, updated its guidelines titled "Medication Administration in the School Setting: Guidelines" (revised May 2010). These guidelines are available on CDE's website.

[Revised February 2014]

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