

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AND MONITORING HEALTH CONDITIONS

The Governing Board recognizes that during the school day, some students may need to take medication prescribed or ordered by an authorized health care provider, to be functional at school and participate in the educational program. The Superintendent or designee shall develop processes for the administration of medication to these students. For any student with a disability, as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, necessary medication shall be administered in accordance with the student's individualized education program or Section 504 services plan.

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

If a parent/guardian chooses, he/she may administer the medication to his/her child at school or designate another individual who is not a school employee to do so on his/her behalf.

(cf. 1250 - Visitors/Outsiders)

(cf. 6116 - Classroom Interruptions)

In addition, upon written request by the parent/guardian and with the approval of the student's authorized health care provider, a student with a medical condition that requires frequent treatment, monitoring, or testing may be allowed to self-administer, self-monitor, and/or self-test. The student shall observe universal precautions in the handling of blood and other bodily fluids.

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

(cf. 5141.22 - Infectious Diseases)

(cf. 5141.23 - Asthma Management)

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

Administration of Medication by School Personnel

Any medication prescribed by an authorized health care provider, including, but not limited to an emergency antiseizure medication for a student with epilepsy auto-injectable epinephrine, insulin or glucagon, may be administered by the school nurse or other designated school personnel only when the Superintendent or designee has received written statements from both the student's parent/guardian and authorized health care provider. (Education Code 49414.7, 49423; 5 CCR 600)

School nurses and other designated school personnel shall administer medications in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation and shall be afforded appropriate liability protection.

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(cf. 3530 - Risk Management/Insurance)

(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)

(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)

Only a school nurse or other school employee with an appropriate medical license may administer an insulin injection to a student. In the event such licensed school personnel are unavailable, the district may contract with a licensed nurse from a public or private agency to administer insulin to the student.

(cf. 5141.24 - Specialized Health Care Services)

When unlicensed personnel are authorized by law to administer a medication, such as emergency antiseizure medication, epinephrine auto-injector, insulin, or glucagon, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that school personnel designated to administer it to students receive appropriate training and, as necessary, retraining from qualified medical personnel before any medication is administered. At a minimum, the training shall cover how and when such medication should be administered, the recognition of symptoms and treatment, emergency follow-up procedures, and the proper documentation and storage of medication. Such trained, unlicensed designated school personnel shall be supervised by and provided with emergency communication access to a school nurse, physician, or other appropriate individual.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain documentation of the training, ongoing supervision, as well as annual written verification of competency of such other designated school personnel.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48980 Notification at beginning of term

49407 Liability for treatment

49408 Emergency information

49414 Emergency epinephrine auto-injectors

49414.5 Providing school personnel with voluntary emergency training

49414.7 Emergency medical assistance: administration of epilepsy medication

49422-49427 Employment of medical personnel, especially:

49423 Administration of prescribed medication for student

49423.1 Inhaled asthma medication

49480 Continuing medication regimen; notice

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

2700-2837 Nursing, especially:

2726 Authority not conferred

2727 Exceptions in general

3501 Definitions

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

600-611 Administering medication to students

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

COURT DECISIONS

American Nurses Association v. O'Connell, (2010) 185 Cal.App.4th 393

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Definitions

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

Other designated school personnel may include a non-medical individual employed by the district who has 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)

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 antiseizure 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)

Epinephrine auto-injector means a disposable drug delivery system with a spring-activated needle that is designed for emergency administration of epinephrine to provide rapid, convenient first aid for persons suffering a potentially fatal reaction to anaphylaxis. (Education Code 49414)

Anaphylaxis means a potentially life-threatening hypersensitivity to a substance, which may result from an insect sting, food allergy, drug reaction, exercise, or other cause. Symptoms may include shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty talking or swallowing, hives, itching, swelling, shock, or asthma. (Education Code 49414)

(cf. 5141.23- Asthma Management)

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

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 – Parental Notifications)

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In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall inform the parents/guardians of any student on a continuing medication regimen for a nonepisodic 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.
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 year, providing required 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)
2. If the student is on a continuing medication regimen for a nonepisodic 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 and updating the information when needed. (Education Code 49480)
3. If the student suffers from epilepsy, notifying the principal or designee whenever the student has had an emergency antiseizure medication administered to him/her within four hours before 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.

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Parent/Guardian Statement

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

1. Identify the student
2. Grant permission for an authorized district representative to communicate directly with the student's authorized health care provider and pharmacist, as may be necessary, regarding the authorized 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 or otherwise assist the student in the administration of medication
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 may terminate consent for such 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 district employees are to administer prescribed medication to a student or when a student is to be allowed to carry and self-administer prescription diabetes medication, auto-injectable epinephrine, or prescription inhaled asthma medication during school hours, the authorized health care provider's written statement shall include:

1. Clear identification of the student (Education Code 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 602)
2. The name of the medication (Education Code 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 602)
3. The method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken (Education Code 49423, 49423.1; 5 CCR 602)
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

When authorizing a district employee to administer emergency antiseizure medication to a student, the authorized health care provider's written statement shall also include the following: (Education Code 49414.7)

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1. Detailed seizure symptoms, including frequency, type, or length of seizures that identify when the administration of the medication becomes necessary
2. 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, the length of time for direct observation, and a requirement to 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. The type of medication and the times and dosage to be administered shall be noted on the list.
4. Maintain 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.
5. Maintain 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)

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7. Coordinate the administration of medication during field trips and after-school activities.

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)
(cf. 6153 - School-Sponsored Trips)
8. Report to the 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 a locked drawer or cabinet.
10. As needed, communicate with the authorized health care provider and pharmacist regarding the medication and its effects.
11. 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.
12. Ensure that 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 and parent/guardian instances when the 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.

Upon receiving such notification, the site administrator may notify the student's authorized health care provider and shall document the error in the medication log.

Additional Requirements for Management of Epileptic Seizures

In addition to other applicable provisions in preceding sections, 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)

1. The notification of any parent/guardian who requests that a nonmedical district employee be trained to provide emergency medical assistance to his/her child that the child may qualify for services or accommodations under a Section 504 plan or an individualized education program (IEP).

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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.

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

2. The creation of an individualized health plan, seizure action plan, or other appropriate health plan designed to acknowledge and prepare for the child's health care needs in school, if a parent/guardian refuses to have his/her child assessed for services or accommodations under the Section 504 plan or an IEP.
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 volunteer request, the training that the volunteer will receive, the voluntary nature of the program, and the timelines for the volunteer to rescind his/her offer.

If no employee volunteers to administer emergency antiseizure medication to a student, the Superintendent or designee shall renotify the student's parent/guardian of the option to be assessed for services and accommodations under Section 504 and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

4. An assurance that any employee who volunteers to administer an emergency antiseizure medication receives training from a licensed health care professional before administering such medication. When a trained employee has not administered an emergency antiseizure medication to a student within two years after completing the training, he/she shall attend a new training program to retain the ability to administer an emergency antiseizure medication.
5. An assurance that any training provided for district employees who volunteer to administer emergency antiseizure medications to students includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Recognition and treatment of different types of seizures
 - b. Administration of an emergency antiseizure medication

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- 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 antiseizure medication to a student at a school site.

Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

The Superintendent or designee shall provide epinephrine auto-injectors to school nurses or other employees who have volunteered to administer them in an emergency and have received training. The school nurse, or a volunteer employee when a school nurse or physician is unavailable, may administer an epinephrine auto-injector to provide emergency medical aid to any person suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from potentially life-threatening symptoms of anaphylaxis at school or a school activity. (Education Code 49414)

At least once per school year, the Superintendent or designee shall distribute to all staff a notice requesting volunteers to be trained to administer an epinephrine auto-injector and describing the training that the volunteer will receive. (Education Code 49414)

The principal or designee at each may designate one or more volunteers to receive initial and annual refresher training, which shall be provided by a school nurse or other qualified person designated by a physician and surgeon authorized pursuant to Education Code 49414, and shall be based on the standards developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Written materials covering the required topics for training shall be retained by the school for reference. (Education Code 49414)

A school nurse or other qualified supervisor of health, or a district administrator if the district does not have a qualified supervisor of health, shall obtain a prescription for epinephrine auto-injectors for each school from an authorized physician and surgeon. Such prescription may be filled by local or mail order pharmacies or epinephrine auto-injector manufacturers. Elementary schools shall at a minimum, be provided one adult (regular) and one junior epinephrine auto-injector. Secondary schools shall be provided at least one adult (regular) epinephrine auto-injector, unless there are any students at the school who require a junior epinephrine auto-injector. (Education Code 49414)

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If an epinephrine auto-injector is used, the school nurse or other qualified supervisor of health shall restock the epinephrine auto-injector as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than two weeks after it is used. In addition, epinephrine auto-injectors shall be restocked before their expiration date. (Education Code 49414)

Information regarding defense and indemnification provided by the district for any and all civil liability for volunteers administering epinephrine auto-injectors shall be provided to each volunteer and retained in his/her personnel file. (Education Code 49414)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 – Personnel Files)

A school may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source for the support of the school in carrying of the requirements of Education Code 49414, including, but not limited to, the acceptance of epinephrine auto-injectors from a manufacturer or wholesaler. (Education Code 49414)

(cf. 3290 – Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records regarding the acquisition and disposition of epinephrine auto-injectors for a period of three years from the date the records were created.

(Business and Professions Code 4119.2)
(cf.3580 – District Records)