

San Dieguito Union High School District

Administering Medication and Monitoring Health Conditions

AR 5141.21

Students

Definitions

Authorized health care provider means an individual who is licensed by the State of California to prescribe or order medication, including, but not limited to, a physician or physician assistant.

Other designated school personnel means any individual employed by the district, including a nonmedical school employee, who has volunteered or consented to administer 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.

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.

Epinephrine auto-injector means a disposable delivery device designed for the automatic injection of a premeasured dose of epinephrine into the human body to prevent or treat a life-threatening allergic reaction.

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 breathing, difficulty talking or swallowing, hives, itching, swelling, shock, or asthma.

Opioid antagonist means naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration that, when administered, negates or neutralizes in whole or in part the pharmacological effects of an opioid in the body and that has been approved for the treatment of an opioid overdose.

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.

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:

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. Providing parent/guardian and authorized health care provider written statements each school year as described in the sections "Parent/Guardian Statement" and "Health Care Provider Statement" below. 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.
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.
3. 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.

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 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 the medication or otherwise assist the student in its administration

4. Contain an acknowledgment that the parent/guardian understand the responsibilities 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 understands the right to terminate the consent for the 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 the student be allowed to carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine or prescription inhaled asthma medication, the parent/guardian's written statement shall:

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:

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 any district employee is to administer prescribed medication to a student, or when a student is to be allowed to carry and self-administer prescribed medication during school hours, the authorized health care provider's written statement shall include:

1. Clear identification of the student
2. The name of the medication
3. The method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken
4. If a parent/guardian has requested that the student be allowed to self-administer medication, confirmation that the student is able to self-administer the medication
5. For medication that is to be administered by unlicensed personnel, confirmation by the student's health care provider that the medication may safely and appropriately be

administered by unlicensed personnel

6. 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
7. Possible side effects of the medication
8. Name, address, telephone number, and signature of the student's authorized health care provider

For self-administration of inhaled asthma medication, the district shall accept a written statement from a physician or surgeon contracted with a health plan licensed pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1351.2. Such written statements shall be in English and Spanish, and shall include the name and contact information for the physician or surgeon.

District Responsibilities

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any unlicensed school personnel authorized to administer medication to a student receives appropriate training from the school nurse or other qualified medical personnel.

The school nurse or other designated school personnel shall:

1. Administer or assist in administering medication 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 medication, and note on the list the type of medication and the times and dosage to be administered
4. Maintain for each student 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 for each student 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
7. Coordinate and, as appropriate, ensure the administration of medication during field trips and other school-related activities
8. Report to a student's parent/guardian and the site administrator any refusal by the student to take the medication
9. Keep all medication to be administered by the district in a locked drawer or cabinet
10. As needed, communicate with a student's authorized health care provider and/or pharmacist regarding the medication and its effects
11. Counsel other designated school personnel regarding the possible effects of a medication on a 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 any 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. In the event of a medical emergency requiring administration of medication, provide immediate medical assistance, directly observe the student following the administration of medication, contact the student's parent/guardian, and determine whether the student should return to class, rest in the school office, or receive further medical assistance
14. Report to the site administrator, the student's parent/guardian, and, if necessary, the student's authorized health care provider any instance when a 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

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.

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.

The principal or designee at each school 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 (SPI). Written materials covering the required topics for training shall be retained by the school for reference.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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