

## **Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications**

### **Purpose**

This procedure informs school employees, parents and students in the rights and responsibilities of students to self-administer certain medications for life-threatening conditions.

### **Scope**

This procedure applies to principals, staff, the school nurse and designee, students and parents or guardians.

### **Procedure**

1. Students with asthma or life-threatening allergies are authorized, in consultation with the school's licensed registered nurse, to possess and self-administer medication for asthma or anaphylaxis during the school day, during school-sponsored events and while traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities.
  - 1.1. Asthma is an inflammatory disease of the respiratory tract. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening allergic reaction that may involve systems of the entire body. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical treatment and follow-up care by an allergist/immunologist.
2. A student will be authorized to possess and self-administer medication if the following conditions are met:
  - 2.1. The parent or guardian must submit a written request for the student to self-administer medication(s) for asthma or anaphylaxis.
  - 2.2. A licensed healthcare practitioner (LHCP) has prescribed the medication for use by the student during school hours and the student has received instructions in the correct and responsible way to use the medication(s).
  - 2.3. The student demonstrates to the LHCP and the school's registered nurse the skill necessary to use the medication and the device necessary to administer the medication.
  - 2.4. The LHCP provides a written treatment plan for managing the asthma or anaphylaxis episodes of the student and for use of medication during school hours. The written treatment plan should include name and dosage of the medication, frequency with which it may be administered, possible side effects and the circumstances that warrant its use.
  - 2.5. The parent or guardian must sign a statement acknowledging that the district shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the student and that the parents or guardians shall indemnify and hold harmless the district and its employees or agents against any claims arising out of the self-administration of medication by the student.

- 2.6. The authorization to self-medicate will be valid for the current school year only. The parent or guardian must renew the authorization each school year.
3. In the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency, the district shall have the following easily accessible:
  - (a) The student's written treatment plan.
  - (b) The parent or guardian's written request that the student self-medicate.
  - (c) The parent or guardian's signed release of liability form.
4. Backup medication, if provided by the parent or guardian, shall be kept at a location in the school to which the student has immediate access in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency.
5. A student's authorization to possess and self-administer medication for asthma or anaphylaxis may be limited or revoked by the school principal, after consultation with the school's registered nurse and the student's parents or guardian, if the student demonstrates an inability to responsibly possess and self-administer such medication.
6. **ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS RESCUE PROCEDURES**
  - 6.1. In the event of an asthma or anaphylactic episode, the school registered nurse shall be immediately contacted. In the absence of the school nurse, the person(s) responsible for school healthcare duties will be contacted.
  - 6.2. For asthma, district staff will follow the procedures outlined in the most recent edition of the *AMES: Asthma Management in Educational Settings* (Form 3419F1), including:
    - (a) Managing the students' school environment
    - (b) Training school personnel in rescue procedures
    - (c) Accompanying all students exhibiting symptoms
    - (d) Providing care as designed in the student's emergency care plan
    - (e) Calling 911, if appropriate
    - (f) Notifying the student's parent or guardian
    - (g) Documenting interventions
    - (h) Reviewing the student's emergency care plan and making changes, if necessary
  - 6.3. For anaphylaxis, district staff will follow the *Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis*, published by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Form 3420F1).

**Supporting Documentation**

3419F1-AMES Asthma Management in Educational Settings

3420F1-Guidelines for the Care of Students with Anaphylaxis

**Document History**

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