

Students

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION IN THE SCHOOLS

5141.21(a)

I. Delegation of Medication Administration to Qualified School Employees

In compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes, administration of medications by school personnel will be permitted to meet the health needs of individual students with chronic or short term health problems.

Medications will be administered pursuant to the written order of an authorized prescriber and the written consent of the parent or guardian.

Medications in the schools will be administered by a licensed nurse (RN or LPN) or in the absence of a nurse, the following school personnel, who have been properly trained by a school nurse or school medical advisor, may administer medications:

- A. Principals and teachers;
- B. Licensed physical therapists (PT) or occupational therapists (OT) employed by the school district;
- C. Directors or director's designees for school readiness programs and before-and after-school programs;
- D. Paraprofessionals, in the case of a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment with an epinephrine cartridge injector and/or inhalant medication to protect the student against serious harm or death; and
- E. Coaches and licensed athletic trainers, during practices, games, and athletic activities, for students who are prescribed inhalant medications to treat respiratory conditions or students prescribed epinephrine cartridge injectors for a medically diagnosed allergic condition which may require prompt treatment to protect the student against serious harm or death.

A qualified school employee, who has been trained according to the medication regulations, may administer the following:

- A. Epinephrine cartridge injectors for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine; and
- B. Antiepileptic medication, including by rectal syringe;
- C. A glucagon injection to a student with diabetes who may require prompt treatment to protect him/her from serious harm or death.

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5141.21(b)

II. Students with Chronic Medical Conditions

Students with chronic medical conditions who are able to possess, self-administer, or possess and self-administer medication, may be permitted to self-carry and/or self-administer medications, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A. An authorized prescriber provides a written medication order, including the recommendation for possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration;
- B. There is a written authorization for possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration from the student's parent or guardian or eligible student;
- C. The school nurse has developed a plan for possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration, and general supervision, and has documented the plan in the student's cumulative health record;
- D. The school nurse has assessed the student's competency for self-administration and deemed it safe and appropriate, including that the student:
 - 1. is capable of identifying and selecting the appropriate medication by size, color, amount or other label identification;
 - 2. knows the frequency and time of day for which the medication is ordered;
 - 3. can identify the presenting symptoms that require medication;
 - 4. administers the medication appropriately;
 - 5. maintains safe control of the medication at all times;
 - 6. seeks adult supervision whenever warranted; and,
 - 7. cooperates with the established medication plan.
- E. The administrator, appropriate teachers, coaches, and other appropriate school personnel are informed the student is possessing, self-administering, or possessing and self-administering prescribed medication;
- F. Such medication is transported to school and maintained under the student's control in accordance with this policy; and
- G. Controlled drugs, as defined by §21(a)-240 of the Connecticut General Statutes may not be possessed or self-administered by students, except in extraordinary situations, such as international field trips, with approval of the school nurse supervisor and the school medical advisor in advance and with an appropriate plan in place; and
- H. The conditions for self-administration meet any regulations as may be imposed by the State Board of Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health.

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5141.21(c)

The time or place where a student with diabetes may test his/her blood-glucose level on school grounds shall not be restricted provided the student has written parental/guardian permission and a written order from a physician stating that such child is capable of conducting self-testing on school grounds.

III. Students Diagnosed with Asthma

A student diagnosed with asthma who is able to self-administer medication shall be permitted to retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending school, in order to provide for prompt treatment to protect such child against serious harm or death, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A. An authorized prescriber provides a written order requiring the possession of an inhaler by the student at all times in order to provide for prompt treatment in order to protect the child against serious harm or death and authorizing the student's self-administration of medication, and such written order is provided to the school nurse;
- B. There is a written authorization from the student's parent or guardian regarding the possession of an inhaler by the student at all times in order to protect the child against serious harm or death and authorizing the student's self-administration of medication, and such written authorization is provided to the school nurse;
- C. The school nurse has developed a plan for possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration, and general supervision, and has documented the plan in the student's cumulative health record;
- D. The conditions set forth in subsection (B) above have been met, except that the school nurse's review of a student's competency to self-administer an inhaler for asthma in the school setting shall not be used to prevent a student from retaining and self-administering an inhaler for asthma. Students may self-administer medication with only the written authorization of an authorized prescriber and written authorization from the student's parent or guardian or eligible student; and
- E. The conditions for self-administration meet any regulations as may be imposed by the State Board of Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health.

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5141.21(d)

IV. Students Diagnosed with Life-Threatening Allergic Conditions

A student diagnosed with a life-threatening allergic condition shall be permitted to retain possession of a cartridge injector at all times while attending school, in order to provide for prompt treatment to protect such child against serious harm or death, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- A. An authorized prescriber provides a written order for the possession of a cartridge injector by the student at all times in order to provide for prompt treatment in order to protect the child against serious harm or death and authorizing the student's possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration of medication, and such written order is provided to the school nurse;
- B. There is a written authorization from the student's parent or guardian regarding the possession of a cartridge injector by the student at all times in order to protect the child against serious harm or death and authorizing the student's possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration of medication, and such written authorization is provided to the school nurse;
- C. The school nurse has developed a plan for possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration, and general supervision, and has documented the plan in the student's cumulative health record;
- D. The conditions set forth in subsection (B) above have been met, except that the school nurse's review of a student's competency to self-administer cartridge injectors for medically-diagnosed allergies in the school setting shall not be used to prevent a student from retaining and self-administering a cartridge injector for medically-diagnosed allergies. Students may self-administer medication with only the written authorization of an authorized prescriber and written authorization from the student's parent or guardian or eligible student; and
- E. The conditions for self-administration meet any regulations as may be imposed by the State Board of Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health.

V. Students with Life-Threatening Allergic Conditions on District Transportation

A student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergic condition may possess, self-administer, or possess and self-administer medication, including but not limited to medication administered with a cartridge injector, to protect the student against serious harm or death, provided the following conditions are met:

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5141.21(e)

- A. The parent or guardian of the student has provided written authorization for the student to possess, self-administer, or possess and self-administer such medication (authorization for possession indicates permission to administer cartridge injector by trained personnel including bus drivers); and
- B. A qualified medical professional has provided a written order for the possession, self-administration, or possession and self-administration.
- C. Not later than June 30, 2019, the District shall insure training is provided to all of its school bus drivers, which training may be completed using an online module, on topics including, but not limited to, the following:
1. the identification of the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis;
 2. the administration of epinephrine by a cartridge injector;
 3. the notification of emergency personnel; and
 4. the reporting of an incident involving a student and a life-threatening allergic reaction.
- D. On and after July 1, 2019, the District shall insure the training described below as follows:
1. In the case of a school bus driver who is employed by a carrier contracted by the District or by the District, such training shall be provided to such school bus driver following the issuance or renewal of a public passenger endorsement to operate a school bus pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 14-44(a), to such school bus driver; and
 2. In the case of a school bus driver who is not employed by a carrier contracted by the District or by the District at the time when such endorsement is issued or renewed to such school bus driver, upon the hiring of such school bus driver by the District, except the District is not required to provide such training to any school bus driver who has previously received such training following the most recent issuance or renewal of such endorsement to such school bus driver.
- E. The individual school nurse shall provide to the Transportation staff a list of those students who will possess the epinephrine auto-injector.

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5141.21(f)

VI. Additional Considerations

The nurse must examine on-site any new medication, medication order and parental permission form and develop a medication administration plan for the student before any medication is given. If a school nurse determines any medication administration plan should be re-evaluated, the parent/guardian and authorized prescriber shall be notified immediately by the school nurse.

In addition, the nurse may consult with the nursing supervisor and the school medical advisor as needed. In accordance with standard nursing practice, the school nurse may refuse to administer or allow school personnel to administer any prescription medication which, based on her/his individual assessment and professional judgment, has the potential to be harmful, dangerous, or inappropriate. In such cases a parent has the right to come to the school and administer the medication himself/herself.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statute Section
10-212a Administration of Medications in Schools, including liability.

Adopted 9/15/1998
Revised and Adopted 8/22/2000
Revised and Adopted 10/22/2002
Revised and Adopted 1/29/2004
Revised and Adopted 1/22/2008
Revised and Adopted 5/10/2011
Revised and Adopted 4/9/2013
Revised and Adopted 1/28/2016
Revised and Adopted 3/12/2019

SHM Vol. II, Sec. 3, Medications