

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS POLICY

September 2019

Rationale

Many students attending school need medication to control a health condition. It is necessary that teachers (as part of their duty of care) assist students, where appropriate to take their medication. The school will ensure the student's privacy and confidentiality and will exercise sensitivity towards this issue to avoid any stigmatisation.

This policy will explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes that our school will follow to safely manage the provision of medication to students while at school or school activities, including camps and excursions.

Scope

This policy applies to the administration of medication to all students. It does not apply to:

- the provision of medication for anaphylaxis which is provided for in our school's Anaphylaxis Policy
- the provision of medication for asthma which is provided for in our school's Asthma Policy
- specialised procedures which may be required for complex medical care needs.

Guidelines

Lalor East Primary School will have administration of medication procedure which outlines the school's processes and protocols regarding the management of prescribed and non-prescribed medication to students at this school.

The student's parent/carer may wish to supply medication to be administered at the school. To minimise the quantity of medication held at the school, it should be considered if the medication can be taken outside of the school day, for example medication required three times a day may be able to be taken before and after school, and before bed.

Students will generally need supervision of their medication and other aspects of health care management. The school in consultation with parents/carers and the student's medical/health practitioner may consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication, however this may only occur in very rare circumstances.

Implementation

All medications, including prescription as well as non-prescription medication, including analgesics, such as paracetamol and aspirin and other medications which can be purchased over the counter without a prescription, are to be administered by school personnel following the processes and protocols set out in the **Medication Management Procedures (see Appendix A)** of the school.

In order to ensure that the interests of staff, students and parents/guardians/approved persons are not compromised, medication will only be administered with explicit written permission from parent/guardian/approved persons, or in the case of an emergency, with permission of a medical practitioner.

When administering prescription medication on behalf of parent/carers, the written advice received must be supported by specific written instructions on the original medication bottle or container such as that on the pharmacist's label noting:

- the name of the medication required
- the dosage amount
- the time the medication is to be taken
- how the medication is to be taken
- the dates the medication is required, or whether it is an ongoing medication
- how the medication should be stored.

In most cases, parents/carers should arrange for written advice to be provided in a **Medication Authority Form** which a student's treating medical/health practitioner should complete. If advice cannot be provided by a student's medical/health practitioner, the principal (or their nominee) may agree that written authority and/or the Medication Authority Form can be completed by a student's parents/carers.

Administering medication

Any medication brought to school by a student needs to be clearly labelled with:

- the name of the medication required
- the dosage amount
- the time the medication is to be taken

Parents/carers need to ensure that the medication a student has at school is within its expiry date. If school staff become aware that the medication a student has at school has expired, they will promptly contact the student's parents/carers who will need to arrange for medication within the expiry date to be provided.

If a student needs to take medication at school or a school activity, the principal (or their nominee) will ensure that:

1. Medication is administered to the student in accordance with the Medication Authority Form so that:
 - the student receives their correct medication
 - in the proper dose
 - via the correct method (for example, inhaled or orally)
 - at the correct time of day.
2. A "**Medication Administration Log**" is kept of medicine administered to a student.
3. Where possible, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication
4. The teacher in charge of a student at the time their medication is required:
 - is informed that the student needs to receive their medication
 - if necessary, release the student from class to obtain their medication.

Self-administration

In some cases it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The principal may consult with parents/carers and consider advice from the student's medical/health practitioner to determine whether to allow a student to self-administer their medication.

If the principal decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the principal may require written acknowledgement from the student's medical/health practitioner, or the student's parents/carers that the student will self-administer their medication.

Storing medication

The principal (or their nominee) will put in place arrangements so that medication is stored: securely to minimise risk to others

- in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication
- away from a classroom (unless quick access is required)
- away from first aid kits
- according to packet instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.

For most students, Lalor East Primary School will store student medications at the school office.

The principal may decide, in consultation with parents/carers and/or on the advice of a student's treating medical/health practitioner:

- that the student's medication should be stored securely in the student's classroom if quick access might be required
- to allow the student to carry their own medication with them, preferably in the original packaging
 - if:
 - the medication does not have special storage requirements, such as refrigeration
 - doing so does not create potentially unsafe access to the medication by other students.

Prohibited Practices

In accordance with Department of Education and Training policy, Lalor East Primary School will NOT store or administer analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol as a standard first aid strategy as they can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury. Therefore analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol will not be stored in the school's first aid kit.

Lalor East Primary School will NOT allow a student to take their first dose of a new medication at school in case of an allergic reaction. This should be done under the supervision of the student's parents, carers or health practitioner

Lalor East Primary School will NOT allow use of medication by anyone other than the prescribed student except in a life threatening emergency, for example if a student is having an asthma attack and their own puffer is not readily available.

Medication error

If a student takes medication incorrectly, staff will endeavour to:

Step	Action
1.	Follow first aid procedures outlined in the student's Health Support Plan or other medical management plan.
2.	Ring the Poisons Information Line on 13 11 26 and give details of the incident and the student.
3.	Act immediately upon their advice, such as calling Triple Zero "000" if advised to do so.
4.	Contact the student's parents/carers or emergency contact person to notify them of the medication error and action taken.
5.	Review medication management procedures at the school in light of the incident.

In the case of an emergency, school staff may call Triple Zero "000" for an ambulance at any time.

Evaluation

This policy is a requirement under the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority [VRQA] Minimum Standards.

This policy will be reviewed every four years as part of the school policy review cycle, following changes to Departmental legislation and guidelines or at times that the Principal forms the opinion that the policy warrants a review.

Labelled at School Council:

September 2019

Due for Review:

September 2023