

Administration of Authorised Medication Policy

NQS

QA2	2.1.2	Health practices and procedures - Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
	2.2.1	Supervision - At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

National Regulations

Regs	90	Medical conditions policy
	91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
	92	Medication record
	93	Administration of medication
	94	Exception to authorisation requirement - anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
	95	Procedure for administration of medication
	96	Self-administration of medication

EYLF

LO3	Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing. Educators promote continuity of children's personal health and hygiene by sharing ownership of routines and schedules with children, families and the community
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Aim

Our Service and our educators will only administer medication to a child if it is authorised or the child is experiencing an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency. We recognise it is essential to follow strict procedures for the administration of medication to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of each child using the service.

Related Policies

Emergency Service Contact Policy

Enrolment Policy

Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy

Medical Conditions Policy

Implementation

Our service and educators will only administer medication to children if it is authorised by parents or another person as authorised on the enrolment form. If there is a medical emergency, we will also administer medication when authorised verbally by a medical practitioner or an emergency service, however we may administer medication during an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency without first receiving authorisation.

Medication under the Regulations includes medication covered by the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. Therapeutic goods include those for therapeutic use to:

- prevent, diagnose, cure or alleviate a disease, ailment, defect or injury
- influence, inhibit or modify a physiological process.

This covers products like sunscreen and nappy cream.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure a copy of this policy is provided to parents when they enrol their child.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure children's medication is regularly audited to ensure it has not expired, and is in the original container with legible labels.

Administration of Medication (non-emergency)

Educators will administer medication to a child if it complies with our policy requirements and:

1. if the medication is authorised in writing by a parent or another authorised person and
 - is the original container
 - has not expired
 - has an original label and instructions that can be clearly read and, if prescribed by a doctor has the child's name
 - is administered in accordance with any instructions on the label or from the doctor.
2. after the child's identity and the dosage of the medication is checked by an educator who is not administering the medication. This educator will witness the administration of the medication.

Over the Counter Medication (non-prescription medication)

Our service does not administer over the counter medication unless it has been prescribed by a medical practitioner. Medication may mask the symptoms of other, more serious illnesses and our educators are not qualified medical professionals. However, we will administer nappy cream and sunscreen without prescription if a parent or authorised person authorises this.

Anyone delivering a child to the service must not leave medication in the child's bag or locker. Medication must be given directly to an educator on arrival for appropriate storage. Auto injection devices (eg EpiPens) and asthma puffers will be stored up high in rooms so they are inaccessible to children. All other medication will be stored in accordance with the storage instructions on the medication in a locked labelled container in a cabinet or fridge. Non-refrigerated medication will be kept away from direct sources of heat.

Administration of Medication in emergencies other than anaphylaxis or asthma emergencies

1. Educators will administer medication to a child in an emergency:
 - if a parent or another authorised person verbally authorises the administration of the medication or
 - they receive verbal authorisation from a registered medical practitioner or emergency service if the parent or authorised person cannot be contacted.
2. The child will be positively reassured, calmed and removed to a quiet area under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced and trained educator.
3. The Nominated Supervisor will contact the child's parent/guardian, and provide written notice to the parent/guardian, as soon as possible.
4. The Nominated Supervisor will ensure the service completes an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.

Educators will not administer medication if parents or authorised persons provide verbal authorisation in circumstances that are not emergencies. If educators are unsure whether they should be administering a medication in an emergency after receiving verbal authorisation from a parent or authorised person, educators will obtain authorisation from a registered medical practitioner or emergency service.

Administration of Medication during Anaphylaxis or Asthma Emergencies

1. Educators may administer medication to a child in an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency without authorisation.
2. The child will be positively reassured, calmed and removed to a quiet area under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced and trained educator.
3. The Nominated Supervisor will contact the child's parent/guardian and the emergency services as soon as possible.
4. The Nominated Supervisor will advise the child's parent/guardian in writing as soon as possible.
5. The Nominated Supervisor will ensure the service completes an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.

Medication Record

Educators will complete a Medication Record with the name of the child which:

- contains the authorisation to administer medication or for the child to self-administer the medication
- details the name of the medication, the dose to be administered and how it will be administered, the time and date it was last administered, and the time and date or circumstances when it should be administered next
- if medication is administered to a child (including during an emergency), details the dosage that is administered and how it is administered, the time and date it is administered, the name and signature of the person that administered it, and the name and signature of the person that checked the child's identity and dosage before it was administered and witnessed the administration.

We will use the Medication Record template published by the national authority ACECQA

www.acecqa.gov.au

If required, we will adapt this Medication Record template to record the self-administration of medication for authorised children over pre-school age (eg in the “name and signature of educator administering medication” columns put N/A for not applicable).

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations
National Quality Standard
Early Years Learning Framework

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Last reviewed: May 2022

Date for next review: May2023

Reviewed: May 2023 (removed children that self-medicate) Next review: May 2024