

Administration of Medication Policy

In supporting the health and wellbeing of children, the use of medications may be required by children at the education and care service. Any medication must be administered as prescribed by medical practitioners and first aid guidelines to ensure continuing health for the child and for the child's safety and wellbeing.

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety	
2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported.
2.1.4	Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.
2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

Education and Care Services National Regulations	
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

PURPOSE

To ensure all educators of the Service can safely administer required medication to children with the written consent of the child's parent or guardian. Educators will follow this stringent procedure to promote the health and wellbeing of each child enrolled at the service.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Families requesting the administration of medication to their child will be required to follow the guidelines developed by the Service to ensure the safety of children and educators. The Service will follow legislative guidelines and standards in order to ensure the health of children, families and educators at all times.

Management will ensure:

- The Administration of Authorised Medication Record is completed for each child using the Service who requires medication. A separate form must be completed for each medication if more than one is required.
- Medication may only be administered by the Service with written authority signed by the child's parent or other responsible person named in the child's enrolment record that is authorised by the child's parents to make decisions about the administration of medication.
- Medication must be provided by the child's parents which includes –
 - The administration is authorised by a parent or guardian;
 - Medication is prescribed by a registered medical practitioner (with instructions either attached to the medication, or in written/verbal form from the medical practitioner.)

- Medication is from the original container;
- Medication has the original label clearly showing the name of the child;
- Medication is before the expiry/use by date.
- Any instructions attached to the medication or related to the use of the medication
- Any person delivering a child to the Service must not leave medications in the child's bag or locker. Medication must be given directly to an educator for appropriate storage upon arrival.
- Written and verbal notifications are given to a parent or other family member of a child as soon as practicable, if medication is administered to the child in an emergency when consent was either verbal or provided by medical practitioners.
- If medication is administered without authorisation in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency the parent of the child and emergency services are notified as soon as practical.
- Enrolment records for each child outline the details of persons permitted to authorise the administration of medication to the child.
- Reasonable steps are taken to ensure that medication records are maintained accurately.
- Medication forms are kept in a secure and confidential manner and ensure the records are archived for the regulatory prescribed length of time.
- Educators receive information about the medical and medication policies during their induction.
- To request written consent from families on the enrolment form to administer the Emergency Asthma Kit if required.
- Families will be reminded that every attempt to contact them for verbal permission will be made by the Service prior to administering asthma medications.
- Families are informed of the Service's medical and medication policies
- Safe practices are adhered to for the wellbeing of both the child and educators.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Certified Supervisor/Educators will:

- Not administer any medication without the authorisation of a parent or person with authority – except In the case of an emergency, when the verbal consent from an authorised person, a registered medical practitioner or medical emergency services will be acceptable if the parents cannot be contacted.
- Ensure that medications are stored in the refrigerator in a labelled and locked medication container with the key kept in a separate location, inaccessible to children. For medications not requiring refrigeration, they will be stored in a labelled and locked medication container with the key kept inaccessible to children.
- Ensure that two educators administer medications at all times. One of these educators must have approved First Aid qualifications in accordance with current legislation and regulations. Both educators are responsible for:
 - Checking the Medication Form,
 - Checking the prescription label and the amount of medication being administered
 - Checking that the medication is within use by date
 - Signing and dating the medication form
 - Returning the medication back into the locked medication container.
- Follow hand-washing procedures before and after administering medication.
- Discuss any concerns or doubts about the safety of administering medications with the Nominated Supervisor to ensure the safety of the child
- Seek further information from the family, the prescribing doctor, or the Public Health Unit before administering medication if required

- Ensure that the instructions on the Medication Form are consistent with the doctor's instructions and the prescription label.
- Invite the family to request an English translation from the medical practitioner for any instructions written in a language other than English.(if applicable)
- Ensure that the Medication Record is completed correctly.
- A separate medication record must be completed for each medication given to the child

Families will:

- Notify educators, both via enrolment forms and verbally when children are taking any medications. This includes short and long term medication use.
- Complete a medication record for child requiring medication whilst they are at the Service.
- Assist Educators to complete long-term medication records in accordance with the medical practitioner completing and signing the plan.
- Update long term medication records quarterly or as the child's medication needs change.
- Be requested to sign consent to use creams and lotions (list of items in the first aid kit provided at enrolment) should first aid treatment be required.
- Be required to keep prescribed medications in original containers with pharmacy labels. Please understand that medication will only be administered as directed by the medical practitioner and only to the child whom the medication has been prescribed for. Expired medications will not be administered.
- Keep children away from the Service while any symptoms of an illness remain
- Keep children away from the Service for 24 hours from commencing antibiotics to ensure they have no side effects to the medication.
- NOT leave any medication in children's bags.
- Give any medication for their children to an educator who will provide the family with a Medication Record
- Complete the Medication Record and the educator will sign to acknowledge the receipt of the medication. Please understand that no medication will be administered without written consent from the parent or authorised person.
- Provide any herbal/ naturopathic remedies or no prescribed medications (including Paracetamol or cold medications) with a letter from the doctor detailing the child's name, dosage and the expiry date for the medication.

Guidelines for administration of Paracetamol

- Families must provide their own Paracetamol for use as directed by a medical practitioner.
- Paracetamol will be kept in the locked medication container for emergency purposes should authorised collectors not be contactable.
- To safeguard against the disproportionate use of Paracetamol, and minimise the risk of concealing the fundamental reasons for high temperatures, educators will only administer Paracetamol if it is accompanied by a Doctor's letter stating the reason for administering, the dosage and duration it is to be administered for.
- If a child presents with a temperature whilst at the Service, the family will be notified immediately and asked to organise collection of the child as soon as possible.
- The family will be encouraged to visit a doctor to find the cause of the temperature. While waiting for the child to be collected, educators will
 - Remove excess clothing to cool the child down
 - Offer fluids to the child
 - Encourage the child to rest

- Provide a cool, damp cloth for the child’s forehead and back of the neck
- Monitor the child for any additional symptoms
- Maintain supervision of the ill child at all times, while keeping them separated from children who are well.

Medications kept at the service

- Any medication, cream or lotion kept on the premises will be checked monthly for expiry dates at the same time as the First Aid Checklist.
- A list of first aid kit contents close to expiry or running low will be given to the Nominated Supervisor who will arrange for the purchase of replacement supplies.
- If a child’s individual medication is due to expire or running low, the family will be notified by educators that replacement items are required.
- It is the families responsibility to take home medication
- MEDICATION WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED IF IT IS PAST THE PRODUCT EXPIRY DATE.

Emergency Administration of Medication

- In the occurrence of an emergency and where the administration of medication must occur, the Service must attempt to receive verbal authorisation by a parent of the child named in the child’s Enrolment Form who is authorised to consent to the administration of medication.
- If a parent of a child is unreachable, the Service will endeavor to obtain verbal authorisation from an emergency contact of the child named in the child’s Enrolment Form, who is authorised to approve the administration of medication.
- If all of the child’s nominated contacts are non-contactable, the Service must contact a registered medical practitioner or emergency service on “000”.
- In the event of an emergency and where the administration of medication must occur, written notice must be provided to a parent of the child or other emergency contact person listed on the child’s Enrolment Form.

Emergency Involving Anaphylaxis or Asthma

- For anaphylaxis or asthma emergencies, medication will be administered to a child without authorisation, following the correct action plan has been provided
- The Service will contact the following as soon as practicably possible -
 - Emergency Services
 - A parent of the child.
- The child will be comforted, reassured, and removed to a quiet area under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced and trained educator.

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- Staying Healthy in Child Care - Fourth Edition 4
- National Health and Medical Research Council - www.nhmrc.gov.au

Policy Review Date

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