

Medication Administration at School

OVERVIEW

Federal and California state laws, regulations and recommendations pertaining to medication administration in California public schools are summarized in the California Department of Education's (CDE) *Program Advisory on Medication Administration* (May 2005). This document is very thorough – covering who may prescribe, necessary permissions, documentation, safeguards, and so much more. Every school nurse and every school employee who has any responsibility for medication administration at school should read and be familiar with this document.

Topics covered in the *Program Advisory*

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Link to Program Advisory <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/medadvisory.pdf>

A brief summary of the information above is given to the parents/guardians annually via the *Health Education, Pupil Services, and Parents' or Students' Rights Requiring Annual Notification* document updated and sent to school districts annually through the SDCOE Student Support Services Department.

SPECIFIC MEDICATIONS/CLASSES OF MEDICATIONS IN EDUCATION CODE

The following medications/classes of medication are addressed individually as there are either specific laws and/or training guidelines:

Asthma Inhalers

Education Code 49423.1 allows a student to either be assisted with inhaled asthma medication or to carry and self-administer inhaled asthma medication. The student may carry their inhaler if the school district receives the appropriate written statements:

1. a written statement from the prescribing health care provider confirming that the pupil is able to self-administer inhaled asthma medication.
2. a written statement from the parent or guardian of the pupil that consents to the self-administration and provides a release for the school nurse or other designated school personnel to consult with the health care provider regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication. The parent statement also releases the school district and school personnel from civil liability if the self-administering pupil suffers an adverse reaction by taking medication pursuant to this section.

Auto-injector Epinephrine (EpiPen™, EpiPen Jr.™, Adrenaclick™0.3 mg, Adrenaclick™0.15 mg)

There are two California Education Codes pertaining to auto-injector epinephrine:

1. Education Code 49423 allows students needing auto-injector epinephrine to be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel and allows for students to self-carry prescribed auto-injector epinephrine. For students to carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine the school district shall obtain a written statement from the health care provider prescribing the medication and confirming that the pupil is able to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine, as well as a written statement from the parent/guardian consenting to the self-administration, providing a release for consultation with the health care provider of the pupil regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication, and releasing the school district and school personnel from civil liability if the self-administering pupil suffers an adverse reaction by taking medication pursuant to this section.
2. EC Section 49414(a) allows a local education agency to provide emergency epinephrine auto-injectors to trained personnel. Personnel trained under this statute may utilize those epinephrine auto-injectors to provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering from an anaphylactic reaction.

Training Standards for the Administration of Epinephrine Auto-injectors:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/epiadmin.asp>

Emergency Anti-Seizure Medication (Diastat)

California State Senate Bill 161 (2011) amends California Education Code Section 49414.7 and authorizes (until 2017) a school district, county office of education, or charter school to choose to train volunteer unlicensed personnel to administer Diastat. The law contains a number of components and must be implemented in a very specific manner. It lays out specifics regarding parent/guardian communication, soliciting volunteers, the required training, and more. ***Please read the Education Code in its entirety (49414.7), and after July 1, 2012 refer to the California Department of Education's website for the training guidelines.***

The text of the law (SB161): http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_0151-0200/sb_161_bill_20111007_chaptered.pdf

Glucagon

Education Code 49414.5 allows that in the absence of a credentialed school nurse or other licensed nurse onsite at the school, each school district may provide school personnel with voluntary emergency medical training to provide emergency medical assistance to pupils with diabetes suffering from severe hypoglycemia.

The American Diabetes Association was tasked to develop performance standards for the training and supervision of school personnel in providing emergency medical assistance to pupils with diabetes suffering from severe hypoglycemia. These were developed in cooperation with the CA Department of Education, the California School Nurses Organization, the California Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Glucagon Training Standards for School Personnel:

<http://web.diabetes.org/Advocacy/school/glucagon.pdf>

Sunscreen

Education Code 35183.5. specifically states sunscreen is not an over the counter medication and that school sites shall allow pupils to use sunscreen during the school day without a physician's note or prescription. This code does not require school personnel to assist pupils in applying sunscreen (note- nor does it prohibit it).

REFERENCES/RESOURCES

American Academy of Pediatrics - **Guidelines for the Administration of Medication in School**

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/112/3/697.full.pdf+html>

California School Nurses Organization – **2009 Position Statements** (scroll down to **Medication Delivery in the School Setting**)

<http://www.csno.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/doc/CSNO2009PositionStatements.pdf>

National Association of School Nurses - Position Statement **Medication Administration in the School Setting**

<http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/positions/2012psmedication.pdf>

Legal References

Most of the legal references for this section can be found in the California Department of Education **Program Advisory on Medication Administration**

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/medadvisory.pdf>

Education Code 49423.1 – Prescribed asthma inhalers

Education Code 49423 – Prescribed auto-injector epinephrine

Education Code 49414 - Allows emergency epinephrine auto-injectors

Education Code 49414.7 -Volunteer unlicensed personnel may administer Diastat

Education Code 49414.5 – Glucagon

Education Code 35183.5 - Sunscreen is not an over the counter medication