

TOWN OF VERNON

ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT MEDICATIONS IN THE SCHOOLS

Administration of Medications

There is to be an authorized prescriber's (physician, dentist, optometrist advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant and for interscholastic and intramural athletic events only, a podiatrist) written order and a written authorization of a parent or guardian or eligible student for each medication ordered. A new order must be completed when the dosage is changed and/or when the present authorization expires. There must be written permission of the parent for the exchange of information between the prescriber and the school nurse to ensure the safe administration of such medicine. Forms for authorized prescriber orders and parent or guardian's authorization are available at each school and on the school district's website.

Medications must be in pharmacy prepared containers and labeled with name of child, name of drug, strength, dosage, frequency, authorized prescriber's name and date of original prescription.

The school may only accept up to a three month supply of the prescribed medication.

Over the counter medications must be in the original sealed container. Samples must be labeled by the authorized prescriber.

Medication orders termination dates are not to exceed a 12-month period.

Prescribed medication shall be administered to and taken by only the person for whom the prescription has been written.

In the absence of a school nurse, a full-time principal, full-time teacher, full-time licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by Vernon Public Schools or coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics of Vernon Public Schools who have been properly trained may administer medications to students. The previously named staff may administer oral, topical, intranasal or inhalant medications, and injectable medications with a cartridge injection only to a student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition, which may require prompt treatment to protect the student against serious harm or death.

Prescribed medication should not be administered during school hours if it is possible to achieve the desired effects by home administration during other than school hours.

When any member of the school staff observes a student carrying or taking medication, that individual has the responsibility to report the student to the school nurse or building administrator. The school nurse or building administrator should contact the parent to determine if this is a prescribed medication. If it is a problem of non-prescribed self-medication, i.e., drug abuse, the school's approved procedure should be followed. It should be noted; students who are proficient in the use of their inhalers, and cartridge injectors are permitted to carry the medication for self-administration.

The student is responsible for coming to the health room to receive his/her medication.

A parent or guardian may administer a medication in school to his or her own child in an emergent or urgent situation or as an alternate plan for the safe delivery of a medication.

Administration of acetaminophen under standing orders requires written parental permission and shall be valid for twelve months.

Self Administration

Students who have a verified chronic medical condition and are deemed capable to self-administer prescribed emergency medication, including rescue asthma inhalers and cartridge injectors for medically-diagnosed allergies, to self-administer such medication, and may permit such students to self-administer other medications, excluding controlled drugs provided:

- (a) an authorized prescriber provides a written medication order including the recommendation for self administration;
- (b) a parent or guardian or eligible student provides written authorization for self-administration of medications;
- (c) the school nurse has assessed the student's competency for self-administration in the school setting and deemed it to be safe and appropriate; and including that a 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.

(d) Self-administration of controlled medication, as defined in Section 10-212a-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, may be considered for extraordinary situations, such as international field trips, and shall be approved by the school nurse supervisor and the school medical advisor in advance and an appropriate plan shall be developed.

Administration of Medications by certified Coaches and Licensed Athletic Trainers during intramural and interscholastic events

During intramural and interscholastic events, a coach or licensed trainer may administer medication for select students for whom self-administration plans are not viable options as determined by the school nurse for (1) inhalant medication prescribed to treat respiratory conditions and (2) medication administered with a cartridge injector for students with a medically diagnosed allergic condition which may require prompt treatment to protect the student against serious harm or death, provided the requirements have been met.