

# HAMILTON NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL MEDICATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

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## Hamilton North Primary School Policy Statement

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 students privacy and confidentiality and will exercise sensitivity towards this issue to avoid any stigmatisation.

### Guidelines

1. Our school will have an 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

### Program

1. 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 person, or in the case of an emergency, with permission of a medical practitioner.
2. 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 student, dosage and time to be administered and be within its expiry date. The medication will be stored according to the product instructions, particular in relation to temperature. Analgesics can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury and will not, therefore, be administered by the school, as a standard first aid strategy. Therefore analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol will not be stored in the school's first aid kit.

3.	The principal (or nominee) administering medication needs to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the right child;</li> <li>• has the right medication;</li> <li>• and the right dose;</li> <li>• by the right route (for example, oral or inhaled);</li> <li>• at the right time; and</li> <li>• that they write down what they have observed</li> <li>• permission to administer medication has been received from the child's parents/guardians/approved persons or a medical practitioner.</li> </ul>
4.	The principal or their nominee will inform teachers of those students in their charge who require medication to be administered at the school. The teachers may be required to release students at prescribed times so they may receive their medications from the principal or nominee.
5.	The School register will be completed by the person administering the taking of medication.
6.	The 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 family or health practitioner. <b>NOTE:</b> Only in a life threatening emergency could this requirement be varied. For example, if a student is having an asthma attack and their own blue reliever puffer is not readily available, one should be obtained and given without delay.
8.	The school in consultation with parents/carers and the student's medical/health practitioner will consider the age and circumstances by which the student could be permitted to self-administer their medication. Ideally, medication to be self-administered by the student should be stored by the school. However, where immediate access is required by the student, such as in the case of asthma, anaphylaxis, or diabetes, medication must be stored in an easily accessible location.  <b>Note:</b> It is at the principal's discretion to agree for the student to carry and manage his/her own medication.

## Storage of medication

<p>Schools should ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medication is stored for the period of time specified in the written instructions received</li> <li>• The quantity of medication provided does not exceed a week's supply, except in long-term continuous care arrangements</li> <li>• Medication is stored <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ securely to minimize risk to others</li> <li>○ in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication</li> <li>○ away from the classroom</li> <li>○ away from the first aid kit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## Medication Error

Step	Action
1	If required, follow the first aid procedures outlined in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student health Support Plan, or</li><li>• Anaphylaxis Management Plan</li></ul>
2	Ring the Poisons Information Line, 13 11 26 and give details of the incident and student.
3	Act immediately upon their advice, such as call an ambulance, on 000, immediately if you are advised to do.
4	Contact the parents/guardians or the 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.

### Related Policies

- DET Asthma Policy
- DET Anaphylaxis Policy
- DET Complex medical Car Support
- DET Duty of Care
- DET Medical Emergencies
- DET First Aid Needs
- DET Health Care needs
- DET Health Supporting Planning Forms
- DET Treating Asthma Attacks
- Asthma Society Webpage

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix A: Medication Management Procedures
- Appendix B: Medication Authority Form

### Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

## APPENDIX "A"

### Medication Management Procedures

The school has developed procedures for the appropriate storage and administration of prescribed and non-prescribed medicines to students by school staff with reference to individual student medical information.

## Student Information

Parents and/or guardians are required to keep the school informed of current medical contact details concerning students and any current medical conditions and appropriate medical history.

Every student who has a medical condition or illness has an individual management plan that is attached to the student's records. This management plan is provided by the student's parents/guardians and contains details of:

- the usual medical treatment needed by the student at school or on school activities
- the medical treatment and action needed if the student's condition deteriorates
- the name, address and telephone numbers for an emergency contact and the student's doctor

## Administration of prescribed Oral Medication

Parents/guardians are required to inform the principal in writing of any prescribed medication that students need to take in school hours. Where medication is required in spontaneous situations, detailed administration instructions should be provided, for example in the case of asthma attacks. Medication Administration Permission Forms are available from the Administration Office and should be completed and signed by the parent/guardian.

Certain students are capable of taking their own medication (usually tablets) while other students will need assistance from teachers. This information will be recorded on the individual student's management plan.

All medication sent to school is to be administered by school staff and, parents/guardians are required to supply medication in a container that gives the name of the medication, name of the student, the dose, the time it is to be given and expiry date of the medication.

Where medication for more than one day is supplied, it is to be locked in the storage cupboard in the school administration office.

## Administration of Analgesics

Analgesics are only to be given following permission of parents/guardians and are to be issued by a First Aid Officer who maintains a record to monitor student intake. Analgesics are to be supplied by the parents as above.

## Asthma

Asthma is an extremely common condition for Australian students. Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers their airways narrow, making it hard for them to breathe.

Symptoms of asthma commonly include:

- cough

- tightness in the chest
- shortness of breath/rapid breathing
- wheeze (a whistling noise from the chest)

Many children have mild asthma with very minor problems and rarely need medication. However, some students will need medication on a daily basis and frequently require additional medication at school (particularly before or after vigorous exercise). Most students with asthma can control their asthma by taking regular medication.

### Student Asthma Information

Every student with asthma attending the school has a written Asthma Action Plan, ideally completed by their treating doctor or pediatrician, in consultation with the student's parent/carer.

This plan is attached to the student's records and updated annually or more frequently if the student's asthma changes significantly. The Asthma Action Plan should be provided by the student's doctor and is accessible to all staff. It contains information including:

- usual medical treatment (medication taken on a regular basis when the student is 'well' or as pre-medication prior to exercise)
- details on what to do and details of medications to be used in cases of deteriorating asthma – this includes how to recognise worsening symptoms and what to do during an acute asthma attack
- name, address and telephone number of an emergency contact
- name, address and telephone number (including an after-hours number) of the student's doctor

If a student is obviously and repeatedly experiencing asthma symptoms and/or using an excessive amount of reliever medication, the parents/carers will be notified so that appropriate medical consultation can be arranged. Students needing asthma medication during school attendance must have their medication use; date, time and amount of dose recorded in the First Aid Treatment Book in the sick bay each time for monitoring of their condition.

### Asthma Medication

There are three main groups of asthma medications: relievers, preventers and symptom controllers. There are also combination medications containing preventer and symptom controller medication in the same delivery device.

Reliever medication provides relief from asthma symptoms within minutes. It relaxes the muscles around the airways for up to four hours, allowing air to move more easily through the airways. Reliever medications are usually blue in colour and common brand names include Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl, Epaq and Ventolin. These medications will be easily accessible to students at all times, preferably carried by the student with asthma. All students with asthma are encouraged to recognise their own asthma symptoms and take their blue reliever medication as soon as they develop symptoms at school.

Preventer medications come in autumn colours (for example brown, orange, and yellow) and are used on a regular basis to prevent asthma symptoms. They are mostly taken twice a day at home and will generally not be seen in the school environment.

Symptom controllers are green in colour and are often referred to as long acting relievers. Symptom controllers are used in conjunction with preventer medication and are taken at home once or twice a day.

Symptom controllers and preventer medications are often combined in one device. These are referred to as combination medications and will generally not be seen at school.

**HAMILTON NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Medication Authority Form**

for a student who requires medication whilst at school

*This form must be completed by the student's parent/guardian for all medication to be administered at school.*

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** wherever possible, medication should be scheduled outside school hours, e.g. medication required three times a day is generally not required during a school day: it can be taken before and after school and before bed.

**Medication required:**

Name of Medication/s	Dosage (amount)	Time/s to be taken	How is it to be taken? (eg orally/topical/injection)	Dates
				Start date:    /    / End Date:     /    / <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing medication

**All medicines will be stored in a locked cupboard in the administration office (unless refrigeration is required).**

- This medication must be refrigerated.
- This medication is in its original package and the pharmacy label matches the information included in this form.

**Monitoring effects of Medication**

Please note: School staff *do not* monitor the effects of medication and will seek emergency medical assistance if concerned about a student's behaviour following medication.

**Privacy Statement**

The school collects personal information so as the school can plan and support the health care needs of the student. Without the provision of this information the quality of the health support provided may be affected. The information may be disclosed to relevant school staff and appropriate medical personnel, including those engaged in providing health support as well as emergency personnel, where appropriate, or where authorised or required by another law. You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you/your child and to request that it be corrected.

**Authorisation:**

**Name of Parent/Guardian:**

Signature:

Date:

Please attach any additional information to this form, if required.



Office Use Only	
Issue Date	June 2017
Last Review Date	June 2017
Next Review Date	June 2018