

Giving medication to children in schools and nurseries.

Updated guidance October 17. This replaces previous guidance.



Administration of medicines in schools and nurseries:-

There are three legal requirements that apply to all providers about giving medication to children. As a provider you must:

1. Have, and put into practice, an effective policy on giving medicines to children in your setting,
2. Keep written records of all medicines you give to children, and tell parents about these records,
3. Get written permission from parents for every medicine before you give any medication.

The current legal guidance allows you to give over-the-counter medication such as pain and fever relief or teething gel. However, you must get written permission beforehand from parents. Over the counter (OTC) products to treat minor, self-limiting conditions do not require a prescription from a GP. Many GP practices have adopted a self-care policy where they do not issue prescriptions for such products that can be purchased OTC from a community pharmacy. Medicines purchased OTC to treat minor self-limiting conditions contain dosage instructions and patient information leaflets with information relating to the medicine. It is perfectly acceptable for you to give medication that is recommended by a pharmacist or nurse without a written prescription, as well as any medication prescribed by a doctor/dentist. *For further information visit www.ofsted.gov.uk*

Adrenaline Injections :- At the start of October an amendment to the Human Medicines Regulations was made to allow schools to buy adrenaline auto-injector devices (AAI) without prescription.

These devices are intended for emergency use in children at risk of anaphylaxis whose own device is unavailable or not working.

In the UK, 17% of fatal allergic reactions in school-aged children occur whilst the child is at school. The update to the law permits school staff to use auto-injectors, such as EpiPen, Emerade or Jext, to administer a dose of adrenaline where written consent for the use of the 'spare' AAI has been provided.

Salbutamol Inhalers :- Schools and nurseries are reminded that a similar legislative change took place in 2014 meaning that they are also able to purchase a salbutamol inhaler without a prescription for use in asthmatic emergencies.

Guidance on how to recognize and respond to an asthma attack can be found by visiting-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-asthma-inhalers-for-use-in-schools>



For further information visit www.elmmb.nhs.uk or contact the Medicines Management Teams on 01282 644801 (EL CCG) or 01254 282087 (BwD CCG)