

Medication Administration at School

Nebraska's Medication Aide Act

Introduction

- Introduction: Useful Definitions
- Fourteen Areas of Competency
- Limits and Conditions

Medications

- Substances used to:
 - Prevent disease (prophylactic)
 - Help diagnose disease (ADHD)
 - Treat a disease
 - Restore function or normal action (diuretics)
 - Maintain normal action (seizure meds)
- Federal and State legislation ensures the public's safety and regulates the manufacture and sale of drugs.

Medications

- Medication administration in schools is guided by:
 - State Statutes
 - Medication Aide Act
 - Pharmacy Act
 - Nurse Practice Act
 - Controlled Substances Act
 - Federal law
 - School district policies
 - Program procedures

Sources of Medications

- Plant (digitalis)
- Animal (insulin, clotting factors)
- Mineral (sulfa antibiotics)
- Synthetic (amoxicillin)
- Genetically-engineered

Actions of Medications: (may be positive or negative!)

- Local: act mainly at the site of application
- Systemic: absorbed into the bloodstream and circulated throughout the body

Classifications of Drugs

- Prescription: products including controlled substances which require a licensed prescriber's order (MD, DO, PA, APRN, Dentist). NOTE: chiropractors do not have prescriptive authority in Nebraska.
- Over the Counter – OTC: may be purchased without a prescription.
- Controlled Substances – medical use and potential for abuse. Ritalin and other stimulants are Schedule II. Some psycho-active drugs and pain control products.

More important terms

- Dispense: a legally regulated function reserved for pharmacists and prescribers (limited).
- Prescribe: a legally regulated function reserved for specific groups of licensed health care professionals (physicians, PAs, APRNs, NOT chiropractors).
- Administer: a legally regulated function reserved for specific groups of licensed health care professionals (physicians, nurses, NOT athletic trainers).
- Provide: the act of giving medication to a person unable to access and administer to him/herself. THIS IS THE FUNCTION ASSIGNED TO UNLICENSED PERSONNEL AT SCHOOL.

Variables affecting action

- Variables affecting action:
 - Dose
 - Route
 - Drug-diet interactions
 - Drug-drug interactions
 - Age
 - Body weight
 - Pathological conditions
 - Psychological considerations

Adverse Effects of Medications

- Side Effects: natural, expected, and predictable actions that occur with the desired effects (ex: dry mouth from antihistamines)
- Adverse Reactions: unexpected and potentially harmful (ex: visual disturbances, nausea, behavior changes)
- Allergic Reactions: Unrelated to the action of the medication, mild to severe (ex: rash to difficulty breathing. May be delayed or immediate onset. MAY BE LIFE-THREATENING!)

STAY ALERT!

- One of the competency areas of the Medication Aide Act is knowing when NOT to give a medication.
- If you have questions or concerns about a child's response to medication, STOP – HOLD THE DOSE – CONTACT PARENT – AND ASK QUESTIONS!

Fourteen Areas of Competency

1. Recognize the recipient's right to personal privacy.
2. Recognize the recipient's right to refuse medication.
3. Maintain hygiene and standards of infection control.

Fourteen Areas of Competency

4. Follow facility procedures regarding storage, handling, and disposal of medications.
5. Recognize general conditions when the medication should not be given.

Fourteen Areas of Competency

6. Accurately document all medications: Student name, medication name, dose, route, time administered, or refusal.
7. Follow the Five Rights:
 1. Right Person
 2. Right Medication
 3. Right Time
 4. Right Dose
 5. Right Route

Fourteen Areas of Competency

8. Provide medications according to the specialty needs of the recipient.
9. Recognize general conditions which may indicate an adverse reaction to medication.
10. Have the ability to understand and follow instructions.

Fourteen Areas of Competency

11. Practice appropriate safety standards when providing medications.
12. Recognize the limits and conditions by which unlicensed persons may legally provide medications.
13. Recognize the responsibility to report and the mechanisms for reporting possible child or adult abuse or neglect if reasonable cause exists.

Fourteen Areas of Competency

14. Recognize the recipient's property rights and personal boundaries.

Conditions and Limitations of Unlicensed Persons

- The Medication Aide Act readily identifies the competent, qualified, unlicensed person as providing the following according to instructions:
 - Oral Medications: tablets, capsules, liquids
 - Topical Medications: ointments, patches
 - Instillation: eye or ear drops
 - Inhalation: nasal sprays, inhalers, nebulizers

Conditions and Limitations of Unlicensed Persons

- Providing medications by other routes requires:
 - Determination of competency limited to the specific recipient.
 - Determination by a licensed health care professional that it is safe for the unlicensed person to provide the medication to the specific recipient.
 - Determinations and Instructions are in writing.

Techniques of Administration

- Handwashing
- Oral: tablet, liquid
- Topical
- Instillation
- Inhalation
- EpiPen
- Documentation

Emergency Medications: EpiPen and Albuterol

It's an EMERGENCY! What Now?

Follow the steps of the protocol:

1. Call 911
2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated ERT to implement emergency protocol.
3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse
4. Administer medications (EpiPen® and albuterol) per standing order
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible
6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc)
7. Contact parents immediately and physician as soon as possible
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility.



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Emergency Medications: EpiPen and Albuterol

Step 4 of Protocol: Administer EpiPen & Albuterol

- Administer an IM EpiPen® Jr. for a child less than 50 pounds or an adult EpiPen® for any individual over 50 pounds
- Follow with nebulized albuterol (premixed) while awaiting EMS. If not better, may repeat times two, back-to-back
- Administer CPR if indicated



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Emergency Medications: EpiPen and Albuterol

Administer EpiPen® Things To Know

- One of the most common errors is not leaving the auto-injector in long enough for all the medication to be dispensed. Count to ten before removing unit
- The auto-injectors are designed to be administered through clothing (including jeans)
- Apply to thigh, regardless of what body part is affected
- In the unlikely event of a "needle-stick" to the individual administering an EpiPen®, consult and follow the school's exposure control plan



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Emergency Medications: EpiPen and Albuterol

Step 8 of the Protocol: Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility

- Effects of epinephrine will last only 15-20 minutes
- To avoid relapse without additional epinephrine available, person should seek medical care
- To return to school environment, person should have medical clearance, current signed asthma/allergy action plan and medication



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Emergency Medications: Epipen and Albuterol

Directions for Administration of Nebulized Albuterol

- Set up nebulizer as demonstrated by your instructor
- Instruct/assist student to assume seated position
- Place mask over mouth and nose. As aerosol begins to flow, instruct to inhale deeply and slowly through mouth, then exhale slowly
- If coughing occurs during treatment, remove mask. Allow individual to clear secretions completely; resume treatment
- Monitor individual for changes in respiratory rate, effort, and vocal ability
- If individual continues to have difficulty breathing, administer two more treatments



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Emergency Medications: Epipen and Albuterol

Administration of Nebulized Albuterol

- Albuterol relaxes the bronchi, helps open the airway, and moves the mucus out of the lungs.
- A nebulizer is a machine (compressor) that mixes the medication with air to provide a fine mist (aerosol) for breathing in through a mask or mouthpiece. This is the most efficient way to get the medication into the lungs during an emergency (better than a metered-dose inhaler).



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FIELD TRIPS

- AG opinion (10/05) makes it clear that any school personnel assigned responsibility to provide medications to students must satisfy the requirements of the Medication Aide Act.
- Inventory and documentation practices can be a challenge!
- School policies help reinforce expectations for staff regarding medication safety and accountability
- Sample documentation

Self-Management Considerations

- Reference legislation: Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-224 and 79-225.
- Self-management means fully independent, without supervision.
- Most children fall somewhere on a continuum.
- Independence and capacity to care for oneself can be developed through an individualized health care plan (IHP).

School Guidelines and Policies

- The Medication Aide Act provides a mechanism for "who" shall give the meds.
- The Act does NOT provide explicit guidance for many procedural aspects of giving meds, including:
 - Original packaging with label intact
 - Consenting procedures
 - Verbal orders
 - Lost or destroyed medications
 - Security, controlled access
 - Communication with prescriber
 - Right of the district to refuse to provide the medication