

Administration of Medication

In supporting the health and wellbeing of children, the use of medications may be required for children at the Service. All medications must be administered as prescribed by medical practitioners and first aid guidelines to ensure the continuing health, safety, and wellbeing of the child.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
90	Medical conditions policy
91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
94	Exception to authorisation requirement - anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
95	Procedure for administration of medication

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of First Aid Policy Arrival and Departure Policy Control of Infectious Disease Policy Child Protection Policy Code of Conduct Policy Diabetes Management Policy Enrolment Policy Epilepsy Policy	Health and Safety Policy Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma Policy Medical Conditions Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Respect for Children Policy Safe Storage of Hazardous Substances Policy Supervision Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
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Family Communication Policy

PURPOSE

To ensure all educators of the Service can safely administer children's required medication with the written consent of the child's parent or guardian. Educators will follow this stringent procedure to promote the health and wellbeing of each child enrolled at the Service.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Families requesting the administration of medication to their child will be required to follow the guidelines developed by the Service to ensure the safety of children and educators. The Service will follow legislative guidelines and standards to ensure the health of children, families, and educators at all times.

Management will ensure that:

- The *Administration of Medication* Record is completed for each child.
- Medication is only administered by the Service with written authority signed by the child's parent or other responsible person named and authorised in the child's enrolment record to make decisions about the administration of medication.
- Medication provided by the child's parents must adhere to the following guidelines:
- The administration of any medication is authorised by a parent or guardian;
- Medication is prescribed by a registered medical practitioner (with instructions either attached to the medication, or in written/verbal form from the medical practitioner.)
- Medication is from the original container;
- Medication has the original label clearly showing the name of the child;
- Medication is before the expiry/use by date.
- Any person delivering a child to the Service must not leave any type of medication in the child's bag or locker: Medication must be given directly to an educator for appropriate storage upon arrival.
- Written and verbal notifications are given to a parent or other family member of a child as soon as practicable if medication is administered to the child in an emergency when consent was either verbal or provided by medical practitioners.

- If medication is administered without authorisation in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency the parent of the child are notified as soon as practicable.
- If the incident presented imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours of the incident.
- Enrolment records for each child outline the details of persons permitted to authorise the administration of medication to the child.
- Reasonable steps are taken to ensure that medication records are maintained accurately.
- Medication forms are kept in a secure and confidential manner and archived for the regulatory prescribed length of time following the child's departure from the service.
- Children's privacy is maintained, working in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APP).
- Educators receive information about medical and medication policies during their induction.
- Written consent is requested from families on the enrolment form to administer emergency asthma, anaphylaxis, or other emergency medication or treatment if required.
- Families are informed of the Service's medical and medication policies
- Safe practices are adhered to for the wellbeing of both the child and educators.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person /Educators will:

- Not administer any medication without the authorisation of a parent or person with authority, except in the case of an emergency, when the written consent on an enrolment form, verbal consent from an authorised person, a registered medical practitioner or medical emergency services will be acceptable if the parents cannot be contacted.
- Ensure that medications are stored in the refrigerator in an area inaccessible to children. For medications not requiring refrigeration, they will be stored in an area inaccessible to children.
- Ensure that two educators administer and witness medications at all times. One of these educators must have approved First Aid qualifications and a Diploma level qualification (minimum) to administer medication, in accordance with best practice, current legislation and regulations. Both educators are responsible for:
 - Checking the Medication Form
 - Checking the prescription label for;
 - The child's name
 - The amount of medication being administered
 - The use-by date.
 - Confirming that the correct child is receiving the medication
 - Signing and dating the medication form

- Returning the medication back to the locked medication container.
- Follow hand-washing procedures before and after administering medication.
- Discuss any concerns or doubts about the safety of administering medications with management to ensure the safety of the child.
- Seek further information from the family, the prescribing doctor, or the Public Health Unit before administering medication if required.
- Ensure that the instructions on the Medication Form are consistent with the doctor's instructions and the prescription label.
- Invite the family to request an English translation from the medical practitioner for any instructions written in a language other than English.
- Ensure that the Medication Record is completed and stored correctly.

Families will:

- Notify educators, verbally when children are taking any short-term medications.
- Notify educators, via the enrolment form and verbally when children are taking any long-term or precautionary medications.
- Complete and sign an *Administration of Medication* Record for their child requiring medication whilst they are at the Service.
- Assist the Service to complete long-term medication plans with reference to the medical practitioner's advice and ensure plans are signed by the medical practitioner.
- Update (or verify currency of) long term medication records quarterly or as the child's medication needs change.
- Be required to keep prescribed medications in original containers with pharmacy labels. Please understand that medication will only be administered as directed by the medical practitioner and only to the child whom the medication has been prescribed for. Expired medications will not be administered.
- Keep children away at home while any symptoms of an illness remain.
- Keep children at home for 24 hours from commencing antibiotics to ensure they have no side effects to the medication.
- NOT leave any medication in children's bags.
- Give any medication for their children to an educator who will provide the family with a *Administration of Medication* record to complete.
- Complete the *Administration of Medication* record and the educator will sign to acknowledge the receipt of the medication.

- Provide any non-prescription medications (including Paracetamol, and at the discretion of the Service) with a letter from the doctor detailing the child's name and dosage: Note that the stated procedure for administering medications applies to the administration of non-prescription medications.

Guidelines for administration of Paracetamol

- In exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the service, (for instance to relieve symptoms of a diagnosed allergic reaction) families must provide their own Paracetamol for use as directed by a medical practitioner.
- Paracetamol will be kept in the locked medication container for emergency purposes.
- To safeguard against the incorrect use of Paracetamol and minimise the risk of concealing the fundamental reasons for high temperatures, educators will only administer Paracetamol if it is accompanied by a Doctor's letter stating the reason for administering, the dosage, and duration it is to be administered for except for in emergency situations (onset of fever whilst at the Service).
- If a child presents with a temperature whilst at the Service, the family will be notified immediately and asked to organise collection of the child as soon as possible.
- The family will be encouraged to visit a doctor to find the cause of the temperature. While waiting for the child to be collected, educators will
 - Remove excess clothing to cool the child down.
 - Offer fluids to the child.
 - Encourage the child to rest.
 - Provide a cool, damp cloth for the child's forehead and back of the neck.
 - Monitor the child for any additional symptoms.
 - Maintain supervision of the ill child at all times, while keeping them separated from children who are well.

Medications kept at the service

- Any medication, cream or lotion kept on the premises will be checked monthly for expiry dates.
- A list of first aid kit contents close to expiry or running low will be given to the Nominated Supervisor who will arrange for the purchase of replacement supplies.
- If a child's individual medication is due to expire or running low, the family will be notified by educators that replacement items are required.
- It is the family's responsibility to take home short-term medication (such as antibiotics) at the end of each day, and return it with the child as necessary.

- Medication will not be administered if it has past the product expiry date.
- Families are required to consent in terms and conditions for nappy creams (as supplied by families) to be administered.

Emergency Administration of Medication

- In the occurrence of an emergency and where the administration of medication must occur, the Service must attempt to receive verbal authorisation by a parent of the child named in the child's Enrolment Form who is authorised to consent to the administration of medication.
- If a parent of a child is unreachable, the Service will endeavour to obtain verbal authorisation from an emergency contact of the child named in the child's Enrolment Form, who is authorised to approve the administration of medication.
- If all the child's nominated contacts are non-contactable, the Service must contact a registered medical practitioner or emergency service on 000.
- In the event of an emergency and where the administration of medication must occur, written notice must be provided to a parent of the child or other emergency contact person listed on the child's Enrolment Form.

Emergency involving Anaphylaxis or Asthma

- For anaphylaxis or asthma emergencies, medication/treatment will be administered to a child without authorisation, following the provided action plan.
- The Service will contact the following (as required) as soon as practicably possible:
 - Emergency Services
 - A parent of the child
 - The regulatory authority within 24 hours (if an ambulance was called).
- The child will be comforted, reassured, and removed to a quiet area under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced and trained educator.

Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. (2009).

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2018).

Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*.

Victorian Department of Health: www.health.vic.gov.au

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	April 2019	NEXT REVIEW DATE	April 2020
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional information added to points. • Duplicated information deleted. • Sources/references updated and alphabetised. 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
April 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor terminology and grammatical adjustments made to further support understanding and implementation • Included the list of related policies 	April 2019	
October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated to comply with the revised National Quality Standard 	April 2018	
April 2017 August 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor modifications made to ensure compliance with regulations and maintain children's health and safety. • Updated to meet the National Law and/or National Regulations in respect of a serious incidents and notification purposes. 	April 2018	