

Administering Medicines to Students

“Medication” means prescribed drugs and medical devices that are controlled by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and are ordered by a healthcare provider. It includes over-the-counter medications prescribed through a standing order by the school physician or prescribed by the student’s healthcare provider.

The Principal or Board Designee may authorize, in writing, any school employee:

- To assist in self-administration of any drug that may lawfully be sold over the counter without a prescription to a student in compliance with the written instructions and with the written consent of a student’s parent or guardian; and
- To assist in self-administration of a prescription drug to a student in compliance with written instructions of a medical practitioner and with the written consent of a student’s parent or guardian.

Except in an emergency situation, only a qualified healthcare professional may administer a drug or a prescription drug to a student under this policy. Diagnosis and treatment of illness and the prescribing of drugs are never the responsibility of a school employee and should not be practiced by any school personnel.

Administering Medication

The Board will permit administration of medication to students in schools in its jurisdiction. A school nurse (who has successfully completed specific training in administration of medication), pursuant to written authorization of a physician or dentist and that of a parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or guardian, may administer medication to any student in the school or may delegate this task pursuant to Montana law.

Emergency Administration of Medication

In case of an anaphylactic reaction or risk of such reaction, a school nurse or delegate may administer emergency oral or injectable medication to any student in need thereof on school grounds, in a school building, or at a school function, according to a standing order of a chief medical advisor or a student’s private physician.

In the absence of a school nurse, an administrator or designated staff member exempt from the nurse license requirement under § 37-8-103(1)(c), MCA, who has completed training in administration of medication, may give emergency medication to students orally or by injection.

The Board requires that there must be on record a medically diagnosed allergic condition that would require prompt treatment to protect a student from serious harm or death.

A building administrator or school nurse will enter any medication to be administered in an

emergency on an individual student medication record and will file it in a student's cumulative health folder.

Self-Administration of Medication

The District will permit students who are able to self-administer specific medication to do so provided that:

- A physician or dentist provides a written order for self-administration of said medication;
- Written authorization for self-administration of medication from a student's parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or guardian is on file; and
- The Principal or Board Designee are informed that a student is self-administering prescribed medication.

The Principal or Board Designee may authorize, in writing, any employee to assist with self-administration of medications, provided that only the following may be employed:

- Making oral suggestions, prompting, reminding, gesturing, or providing a written guide for self-administering medications;
- Handing to a student a prefilled, labeled medication holder or a labeled unit dose container, syringe, or original marked and labeled container from a pharmacy;
- Opening the lid of a container for a student;
- Guiding the hand of a student to self-administer a medication;
- Holding and assisting a student in drinking fluid to assist in the swallowing of oral medications; and
- Assisting with removal of a medication from a container for a student with a physical disability that prevents independence in the act.

Self-Administration or Possession of Asthma, Severe Allergy, or Anaphylaxis Medication

Students with allergies or asthma may be authorized by the Principal or Board Designee in consultation with medical personnel, to possess and self-administer emergency medication during the school day, during field trips, school-sponsored events, or while on a school bus. The student shall be authorized to possess and self-administer medication if the following conditions have been met:

- A written and signed authorization from the parents, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or guardians for self-administration of medication, acknowledging that the District or its employees are not liable for injury that results from the student self-administering the medication.
- The student must have the prior written approval of his/her primary healthcare provider. The written notice from the student's primary care provider must specify the name and purpose of the medication, the prescribed dosage, frequency with which it may be administered, and the circumstances that may warrant its use.

- Documentation that the student has demonstrated to the healthcare practitioner and the school nurse, if available, the skill level necessary to use and administer the medication.
- Documentation of a doctor-formulated written treatment plan for managing asthma, severe allergies, or anaphylaxis episodes of the student and for medication use by the student during school hours.

Authorization granted to a student to possess and self-administer medication shall be valid for the current school year only and must be renewed annually.

A student's authorization to possess and self-administer medication may be limited or revoked by the Building Principal or Board Designee.

If provided by the parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or guardian, and in accordance with documentation provided by the student's doctor, backup medication must be kept at a student's school in a predetermined location or locations to which the student has access in the event of an asthma, severe allergy, or anaphylaxis emergency.

Immediately after using epinephrine during school hours, a student shall report to the school nurse or other adult at the school who shall provide follow up care, including making a 9-1-1 emergency call.

Administration of Glucagons

School employees may voluntarily agree to administer glucagons to a student pursuant to § 20-5-412, MCA, only under the following conditions: (1) the employee may administer glucagon to a diabetic student only in an emergency situation; (2) the employee has filed the necessary designation and acceptance documentation with the District, as required by § 20-5-412(2), MCA, and (3) the employee has filed the necessary written documentation of training with the District, as required by § 20-5-412(4), MCA.

Handling and Storage of Medications

The Board requires that all medications, including those approved for keeping by students for self-medication, be first delivered by a parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or other responsible adult to a nurse or employee assisting with self-administration of medication. A nurse or assistant:

- Must examine any new medication to ensure it is properly labeled with dates, name of student, medication name, dosage, and physician's name;
- Must develop a medication administration plan, if administration is necessary for a student, before any medication is given by school personnel;
- Must record on the student's individual medication record the date a medication is delivered and the amount of medication received;
- Must store medication requiring refrigeration at 36° to 46° F;
- Must store prescribed medicinal preparations in a securely locked storage compartment; and
- Must store controlled substances in a separate compartment, secured and locked at all times.

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The District will permit only a forty-five-(45)-school-day supply of a medication for a student to be stored at a school; and all medications, prescription and nonprescription, will be stored in their original containers.

The District will limit access to all stored medication to those persons authorized to administer medications or to assist in the self-administration of medications. The District requires every school to maintain a current list of those persons authorized by delegation from a licensed nurse to administer medications.

The District may maintain a stock supply of auto-injectable epinephrine to be administered by a school nurse or other authorized personnel to any student or nonstudent as needed for actual or perceived anaphylaxis. If the district intends to obtain an order for emergency use of epinephrine in a school setting or at related activities, the district shall adhere to the requirements stated in 20-5-421, MCA.

Disposal of Medication

The District requires school personnel either to return to a parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or guardian or, with permission of the parent, an individual who has executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or guardian, to destroy any unused, discontinued, or obsolete medication. A school nurse, in the presence of a witness, will destroy any medicine not repossessed by a parent or guardian within a seven-(7)-day period of notification by school authorities.

Legal Reference:	§ 20-5-412, MCA	Definition – parent-designated adult administration of glucagons – training
	§ 20-5-420, MCA	Self-administration or possession of asthma, severe allergy, or anaphylaxis medication
	§ 20-5-421, MCA	Emergency use of epinephrine in school setting
	§ 37-8-103(1)(c), MCA	Exemptions – limitations on authority conferred
	ARM 24.159.1604	Tasks Which May Be Routinely Assigned to an Unlicensed Person in Any Setting When a Nurse-Patient Relationship Exists

Policy History:

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