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CAMBERWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL – ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS POLICY

RATIONALE

Certain students present at Camberwell Primary School require medication to control a health condition. It is important that Camberwell Primary School (CPS) policy ensures that all medication, whether prescribed or non-prescribed, is stored and administered correctly.

POLICY

Camberwell Primary School manages medications to:

- protect student privacy and confidentiality
- ensure teachers abide by their duty of care by assisting students to take their medication where appropriate.

Camberwell Primary School will ensure all medication to be administered is:

- accompanied by written advice providing directions for appropriate storage and administration
- in the original bottle or container clearly labelled with the name of the student, dosage and time to be administered
- within its expiry date
- stored according to the product instructions, particularly in relation to temperature

Camberwell Primary School will encourage parents/guardians to consider whether they can administer medication outside the school day, such as before and after school and before bed.

AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER

Written advice and directions

CPS will obtain written advice on a Medication Authority Form for all medication to be administered by the school. The form should be completed by the student’s medical/health practitioner ensuring that the medication is warranted. However if this advice cannot be provided the principal may agree that the form can be completed by parents/guardians or responsible adult.

* Medication to treat asthma or anaphylaxis does not need to be accompanied by the Medication Authority Form as it is covered in student’s health plan.

Clarifying directions

Clarification about medication should be obtained from the parents/guardians or adult/independent student, who may need to contact the prescribing medical/health practitioner.

Occasionally CPS will seek general information relating to safe medication practices, ensuring that the identity of the individual student is not provided to local or hospital pharmacists.



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AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER

Administering

The principal, or their nominee must ensure:

- that the correct student receives:
 - their correct medication
 - in the proper dose
 - via the correct method, such as inhaled or orally
 - at the correct time of day
- a log is kept of medicine administered
- teachers or medical staff in charge of students at the time their medication is required:
 - are informed that the student needs to be medicated
 - release the student from class to obtain their medication.

Recording

A medication log or an equivalent official medications register should be used by the person administering the taking of medicine. Good practice is to have two staff members, if possible:

- supervising the administration of medication
- checking the information noted on the medication log.

Schools can observe and document behaviours for the student's medical/health practitioner.

Note: It is not the school's role to:

- interpret behaviour in relation to a medical condition
- monitor the effects of medication.

Appendix A: Medication Administration Log

Warnings

Schools should not:

- store or administer analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol as a standard first aid strategy as they can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury
- 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.
- allow use of medication by anyone other than the prescribed student.

Note: 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.

Specialised procedures

For information on specialised medical procedures such as injections or rectal valium see: Complex Medical Care Support Policy.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/complexneeds.aspx>



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Self Administration

Camberwell Primary School (CPS) does not allow students to self-administer medication unless a particular circumstance alternative arrangement may be made at the principal’s discretion.

If this circumstance were to arise, the principal would consult with parents/guardians and the student’s medical/health practitioner to determine the age and circumstances by which the student could self-administer their medication.

The principal would obtain written permission from the medical/health practitioner or the parents/guardians, preferably in the Medication Authority Form for the student to carry their medication. This is not required for students with Asthma or Anaphylaxis as this is covered under ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis and the Asthma Foundation’s Asthma Care Plan for Schools. Ideally, the self-administered medication should be stored by the school. However where immediate access is required by the student such as in cases of asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes the medication must be stored in an easily accessible location.

Also at the principal’s discretion, students can carry their own medication with them, in the original bottle, when:

- the medication does not have special storage requirements, such as refrigeration
- doing so would not create potentially unsafe access to the medication by other students.

Storing medication

CPS will ensure:

- medication is stored for the period of time specified in the written instructions received
- the quantity of medication provided does not exceed a week’s supply, except in long-term continuous care arrangements
- medication is stored:
 - securely to minimise risk to others
 - in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication
 - away from the classroom
 - away from the first aid kit.

Medication error

This table describes how schools respond when a student has taken medicine incorrectly.

Step	Action
1	If required, follow first aid procedures outlined in the: Student Health Support Plan, or Anaphylaxis Management Plan. See: Related policies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anaphylaxis ▪ Health Care Needs
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 calling an ambulance, on 000, immediately if you are advised to do so.
4	Contact the parents/guardians or the emergency contact person to notified them of the medication error and action taken.
5	Review medication management procedures at the school in light of the incident.



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RELATED PROCEDURES

RELATED POLICY

- Asthma
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/conditionasthma.aspx>
- Anaphylaxis
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/anaphylaxis.aspx>
- Complex Medical Care Support
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/complexneeds.aspx>
- Duty of Care
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/dutyofcare.aspx>
- Medical Emergencies
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/pages/medical.aspx>
- First Aid Needs
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/firstaidneeds.aspx>
- Health Care Needs
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/healthcareneeds.aspx>
- Health Support Planning forms
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/supportplanning.aspx>
- Treating Asthma Attacks
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/asthmaattack.aspx>

Related Legislation

- Working with Children Act 2005

EVALUATION

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