

# **Saraland City School System**

## **Medications at School**

### **Introduction**

The goal of the school system regarding the administration of medication during school hours is to assist students in maintaining an optimal state of wellness, thus enhancing the educational experience.

Minor illness should be treated at home by the parent/guardian. For example, a student with a cold severe enough to require medication should remain at home.

Medication prescribed for three times a day should be given at home – just before leaving for school, upon returning home in the afternoon, and at bedtime. The only exception to this schedule is medication that must be given before or along with meals.

The Saraland Public School System will assist the parents when they delegate administration of medication to the school their child attends. The Health Services Department will not be responsible for administering the medication, but will work with the school to set up safe and effective guidelines in medication administration. The Health Services Department will provide instruction to the person(s) designated by the principal to administer the medications.

### **Parent's Responsibility**

- The parent/guardian and the prescribing physician must complete and sign **The School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization**.
- The parent/guardian must provide the school with medication that is in a correctly labeled prescription bottle/container.
- The parent/guardian must provide the school with a new signed statement if medication orders are changed during the school year.
- The parent/guardian shall provide the list of side effects for medication taken over a 30-day period.
- The parent/guardian, or the parent designated responsible adult, shall deliver all medication to the school personnel designated by the principal.
- The parent/guardian shall pick up student's medication at the end of the school year.
- The parent/guardian shall give the first dose of a new medication at home in case of a possible allergic reaction.

### **School's Responsibility**

- The principal and school nurse shall designate specific personnel who shall ensure the right students gets the right medication in the right dosage by the right route at the right time and is documented in the right way.
- The designated school personnel that are assigned to administer medication will follow the medication policy, medication protocol, and administer medication in a safe setting.
- The designated school personnel will not administer oral medication to a student who has recently vomited.
- In the even of an allergic reaction or an emergency situation involving medication, the school will handle the problem as any other medical emergency.
- The school personnel will only give over the counter medication to a student who has a chronic illness. The medication must be prescribed by the physician and provided in a new, sealed original bottle.
- The school personnel will administer sample medication provided from the health care provider's office according to the written directions from the physician or health care provider.
- The school personnel will refuse to administer medication when there is any discrepancy i.e. label different from instructions, label is unclear, or label torn. This medication will not be given until clarification is obtained.
- The school personnel will count all controlled drugs when they are received.

### **Student's Responsibility**

- Students will not deliver medications to the school.
- Students may self medicate only when they have met the criteria for self administration according to Saraland City School System Policy.
- Students who have doctor's orders to have medication on their person (i.e. Asthma inhaler, or EPI Pen) will not share medication with other students.
- Students will notify their teacher/school personnel at the onset of any distress or allergic reactions. The student will know where medication is kept and be familiar with personal action plan.

## **Questions and Answers Regarding Medications**

### **Q. Why should parents bring student's medication to school?**

- A. The Saraland City School System does not want to place any child in a situation where they may be confronted for drugs. Ritalin as well as other drugs has a street value. When the parents bring the medication, this ensures no other child will tamper with the medication.

### **Q. Why can't the school give over the counter medication?**

- A. The school does not need to be in the position of diagnosing and treating your child's illness. That responsibility rests between the parent and their physician.

### **Q. Why can't my child keep his/her medication?**

- A. To protect all children from taking medication belong to another child – no child may keep medication on their person at school. The only exception would be EPIpens or similar emergency treatment.

### **Q. Why does the school need to count medication?**

- A. This keeps the parent and the school informed of the amount of medication the school has on hand.

### **Q. Why can't the school provide and give medication for minor pain?**

- A. The school personnel can not be placed in the situation to judge between minor or major pain unless they are trained and licensed medical personnel. The schools may not have full-time, trained, and licensed medical personnel on campus. If the student complains of pain, the parent will be notified.