



These guidelines support DECD (Department for Education and Child Development) state that the responsibility of school staff is limited to supervision and does not extend to administering student medication.

SUPERVISION/MANAGEMENT OF STUDENTS' PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

All medication remains the property of the patient and for students under the age of medical consent (usually sixteen) the medication is considered the property of the parent/guardian.

Regulations require that administration of prescription drugs be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the prescribing practitioner. The regulations state that the instructions must include:

- Name of the student
- Name of the drug
- Form of the drug
- Strength of the drug
- Route of administration of the drug
- Frequency of administration of the drug

The DECD medication schedule also includes a request to doctors/ health professionals to, wherever possible, prescribe the medication to be taken outside of school hours and via the simplest and safest method. For medication prescribed the schools require completion of a medication schedule signed by the doctor, before supervision of medication can occur.

Staff may supervise metered dose inhaled medication and oral medication only.

This medication must be delivered to the school weekly with medication in the original labelled and named container.

MONITORING THE EFFECT OF MEDICATION

DECD school staff cannot be expected to monitor the effects of medication. If an unexpected response is observed staff will enact first aid emergency procedures.

Staff may report on observed behaviour. It is not the responsibility of staff to interpret behaviour in relation to a medical condition.

ANTIBIOTICS

Advice from pharmacists is that when antibiotics are to be taken three times a day they may be taken before school, after school and before bedtime and usually do not need to be taken at school. Check with your Doctor.

STORAGE OF MEDICATION

To minimise the quantity of medication at school, medication must be delivered to the front office on a weekly basis and will be stored in a locked cupboard.

ASTHMA MEDICATION

Students may carry their own asthma medication if agreed to by their doctor, parents and teacher. The schools require documentation from the doctor that the student is able to manage their own medication. All medication must be named and have instructions for use. Asthma Management Plans are to be signed by a health professional and be filed with the office.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

All students with a known medical condition which may require emergency intervention will require a 'Health Care Plan' completed by a medical practitioner.

