

# Health and Safety Bulletin

Ref: 2019/05

December 2019

## Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy - December 2019

As you will know, the above policy was reviewed in July this year and issued to schools via the [e-courier](#) prior to the Summer break. Since this date, the NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit have issued [new guidance to Local Authorities](#) in relation to the administration of non-prescription (over the counter) medication within schools which has necessitated a further review of the policy, which can be found [here](#).

This guidance is based on national guidance issued to GPs by NHS England to curb the routine prescribing of products that are for:

- A self-limiting condition, which does not require any medical advice or treatment as it will clear up on its own, such as sore throats, coughs and cold
- A condition that is suitable for self-care, which can be treated with items that can easily be purchased over the counter from a pharmacy, such as indigestion, mouth ulcers and warts and verrucae.

To clarify, GPs in Northumberland will shortly no longer be routinely prescribing medication which is otherwise available over the counter in a pharmacy, although there will be exceptions to this in specific cases. The NHS anticipate that restricting prescribing for minor conditions could save up to £136m.

The current NCC policy currently only allows *prescribed* medication to be administered within schools, the only exception to this currently being paracetamol. The policy has been amended to include this change in direction from the NHS, as schools may get requests from parents to administer non-prescription medication.

It is not anticipated that this change will have a major impact on schools, as the advice would remain that treatment of minor conditions, where the child is still able to attend school, should in the main, be undertaken at home by the parent or carer. Schools will not be expected to routinely administer medication such as cough medicines, cold remedies, hayfever eye drops etc, as larger schools in particular would find this very difficult to manage safely. However, the final decision on whether to do so will lie with the Headteacher.

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School staff should not ask parents to obtain a prescription to allow these products to be administered within school as it is extremely unlikely that the GP will provide this.

It is envisaged that the vast majority of medication administered within schools will continue to be prescribed.

To assist with your policy review, the sections of the July 2019 policy which have been amended in relation to the administration of over the counter medication have been highlighted below:

Page	Amendment
2	What's new section - introduction to changes regarding over the counter medication
7	Responsibility of parents
9/10	Day Trips, Residential Visits and Sporting Activities
10	General procedures - point 3
12	Non-prescription medication
Appendix 1	Administration of Medication to Pupils - Agreement between Parents and School

## **What action needs to be taken?**

Headteachers/Governing Bodies should:

- Ensure they have an up to date school specific policy based on this model policy. Those schools which have already updated their policy based on the July 2019 version, need only incorporate into their own policy the changes in the table above in relation to the administration of non prescription medication. Those schools which have not yet updated their policy, should undertake a complete review based on the December 2019 version.

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- Ensure the revised policy is ratified by the Governing Body prior to issue. Schools should ensure that all staff are aware of the content of the new policy and how it affects them.
- Ensure the revised policy is made available to parents by placing a copy on the school's webpage. An audit of school webpages may be undertaken centrally by Children's Services staff to ensure this has been actioned.

***For further information regarding implementation of this policy, please contact the Corporate Health and Safety Team on 01670 623854. Medical queries should be directed to your school nurse - contact details are provided in the "Useful Contacts" section of the policy.***