

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY

Parents and guardians have the final responsibility for the health of their child including the arrangements for the definitive diagnosis and treatment of health problems. It is recognized that there is a necessity for providing the means for administration of medications in the school setting under certain circumstances. It is also recognized that such medication administration must be provided in a manner consistent with RCW 28A.210260 and the Washington State Nurse Practice Act.

At 18 years of age, students have the legal right to make decisions in regard to their own bodies, including consent to surgical operations. See RCW 26.28.015. If a student is under 18 years of age, the patient and the parents can view the records. **However, when a minor (under the age of 18) is permitted, by law, to consent to health care without parental consent, then only the minor student may authorize disclosure of that health care record.** Chapter 70.02.130 states in part:

If the patient is a minor and is authorized to consent to health care without parental consent under federal and state law, only the minor may exercise the rights of a patient under this chapter as to information pertaining to health care to which the minor lawfully consented.

Washington State or federal laws require the following:

1. A prior written request from the parent(s) or guardian(s) must be on file for all medications, **including over-the-counter medication**, that will be given at school, on a field trip, on a camp-out, during any extracurricular activity, or in an emergency. Verbal requests from parents will not be accepted, per Washington State Law RCW 28A.210260. When a minor is permitted to consent to health care without parental consent, then (s)he may sign their consent form. RCW 70.02.130.
2. **All over-the-counter (OTC) medications/products -- regardless of length of time to be given -- require an Authorization for Medication Form signed by a health care provider with prescriptive authority.** These medications/products must be in their original container.
3. Written orders from a health care provider with prescriptive authority **must** be on file for **all** medications, including over-the-counter medications, that will be given at school on a regular basis for more than 15 consecutive school days.
4. Medication must be brought to school in the original container labeled with the student's name, name and dose of medication, time and method of administration, health care provider's name and length of time it is to be given. Over-the-counter medications must be labeled with student's name.
5. Medication must be stored in the original container in a **LOCKED** storage area.
6. Controlled substances are defined as any medication scheduled V-II that are controlled by DEA and require special license to prescribe. These may include the following, which may be administered in the school:

dexadrine, ritalin-methylphenadate, cylert, adderrall, and other stimulants
oxycodone, codeine, phenobarb, benzodiazapine, and keonopin

If in doubt, consult the current [Nursing Drug Handbook](#) or a local pharmacist.