

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION POLICY

In supporting the health and wellbeing of children, the use of medications may be required for children at the Service. All medications must be administered as prescribed by medical practitioners and first aid guidelines to ensure the continuing health, safety, and wellbeing of the child. Under the *Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations*, early childhood services are required to ensure medication records are kept for each child to whom medication is or is to be administered by the Service (Reg 92).

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS	
Sec.167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
12	Meaning of serious incident
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policy
86	Notification to parent of incident, injury, trauma or illness
90	Medical conditions policy
91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
94	Exception to authorisation requirement - anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
95	Procedure for administration of medication
136	First Aid qualifications
162(c) and (d)	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures are to be followed
174	Time to notify certain circumstances to Regulatory Authority
183	Storage of records and other documents

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of First Aid Policy	Enrolment Policy
Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Child Protection Policy	Medical Conditions Policy
Code of Conduct Policy	Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises	

PURPOSE

To ensure all educators of the Service understand their liabilities and duty of care to meet each child's individual health care needs. To ensure all educators are informed of children diagnosed with a medical condition and strategies to support their individual needs. To ensure that all educators are specifically trained to be able to safely administer children's required medication with the written consent of the child's parent or guardian. Educators will follow this stringent procedure to promote the health and wellbeing of each child enrolled at the Service.

SCOPE

This policy applies to educators, families, staff, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of the Service. Management refers to centre directors, and various persons in management operating from Northern Territory Christian Schools systems office.

IMPLEMENTATION

Families requesting the administration of medication to their child will be required to follow the guidelines developed by the Service to ensure the safety of children and educators. The Service will follow legislative guidelines and adhere to the Education and Care Services National Regulations to ensure the health of children, families, and educators at all times.

For children with a diagnosed health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition a medical management plan must be provided prior to enrolment and updated regularly. A *Medical Risk Minimisation Plan* and *Medical Communication Plan* must be developed in consultation with parents/guardians to ensure risks are minimised and strategies developed for minimising any risk to the child. (See *Medical Conditions Policy*).

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/ MANAGEMENT/ NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL ENSURE:

- obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations* are met
- educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy and associated procedure
- all new employees are provided with a copy of this policy as part of their induction process
- children with specific health care needs or medical conditions have a current medical management plan detailing prescribed medication and dosage by their medical practitioner
- medication is only administered by the Service with written authority signed by the child's parent or other responsible person named and authorised in the child's enrolment record to make decisions about the administration of medication [Regulation 92(3)(b)]
- medication provided by the child's parents must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - the administration of any medication is authorised by a parent or guardian in writing
 - medication is prescribed by a registered medical practitioner (with instructions either attached to the medication, or in written form from the medical practitioner)
 - medication is from the original container/packaging
 - medication has the original label clearly showing the name of the child
 - medication is before the expiry/use by date

- the *Administration of Medication Record* is completed for each child by the parent/guardian including:
 - name of medication
 - time and date medication was last administered
 - time and date medication is to be administered (or circumstances to be administered)
 - dosage to be administered
 - method of administration
 - period of authorisation
 - parent/guardian name and signature
- a separate form must be completed for each medication if more than one is required
- any person delivering a child to the Service must not leave any type of medication in the child's bag or locker. Medication must be given directly to an educator for appropriate storage upon arrival
- written and verbal notifications are given to a parent or other family member of a child as soon as practicable if medication is administered to the child in an emergency when consent was either verbal or provided by medical practitioners
- if medication is administered without authorisation in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency the parent/guardian of the child is notified as soon as practicable
- if the incident presented imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours of the incident by the approved provider
- reasonable steps are taken to ensure that medication records are maintained accurately
- medication records are kept in a secure and confidential manner and archived for the regulatory prescribed length of time following the child's departure from the Service
- children's privacy is maintained, working in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APP)
- educators receive information about *Medical Conditions* and *Administration of Medication Policies* and other relevant health management policies during their induction
- educators, staff and volunteers have a clear understanding of children's individual health care needs, allergy or relevant medical condition as detailed in medical management plans, Asthma or Anaphylaxis Action Plans
- written consent is requested from families on the enrolment form to administer emergency asthma, anaphylaxis, or other emergency medication or treatment if required
- families are informed of the Service's medical and medication policies at time of enrolment
- safe practices are adhered to for the wellbeing of both the child and educators.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- not administer any medication without the written authorisation of a parent or person with authority, except in the case of an emergency, when the written consent on an enrolment form, verbal consent from an authorised person, a registered medical practitioner or medical emergency services will be acceptable if the parents cannot be contacted
- ensure medications are stored in the refrigerator in a labelled and locked medication container with the key kept in a separate location, inaccessible to children. For medications not requiring refrigeration, they will be stored in a labelled and locked medication container with the key kept in a separate location, inaccessible to children
- ensure adrenaline autoinjectors and asthma medication are kept out of reach of children and stored in a cool dark place at room temperature. They must be readily available when required and **not** locked in a cupboard. A copy of the child's medical management plan should be stored with the adrenaline autoinjector or asthma medication
- ensure that two educators administer and witness administration of medication at all times (Reg. 95). Both educators are responsible for:
 - checking the *Administration of Medication Record* is completed by the parent/guardian
 - checking the prescription label for:
 - the child's name

- the dosage of medication to be administered
- the method of dosage/administration
- the expiry or use-by date
- confirming that the correct child is receiving the medication
- signing and dating the *Administration of Medication Record*
- returning the medication back to the locked medication container
- follow hand-washing procedures before and after administering medication
- discuss any concerns or doubts about the safety of administering medications with management to ensure the safety of the child (checking if the child has any allergies to the medication being administered)
- seek further information from parents/guardian, the prescribing doctor or the Public Health Unit before administering medication if required
- ensure that the instructions on the *Administration of Medication Record* are consistent with the doctor's instructions and the prescription label
- ensure that if there are inconsistencies, medication is not to be administered to the child
- invite the family to request an English translation from the medical practitioner for any instructions written in a language other than English
- ensure that the *Administration of Medication Record* is completed and stored correctly including name and signature of witness, time and date of administration
- if after several attempts of encouraging the child to take medication, but they still refuse, contact the parent or guardian. Educators cannot use restrictive practices to make a child take medication at any time
- observe the child post administration of medication to ensure there are no side effects
- respond immediately and contact the parent/guardian for further advice if there are any unusual side effects from the medication
- contact emergency services on 000 immediately if a child is not breathing, is having difficulty breathing, or shows signs of unusual side effects requiring immediate attention following administration of any medication.

FAMILIES WILL:

- provide management with accurate information about their child's health needs, medical conditions and medication requirements on the enrolment form
- provide the Service with a *Medical Management Plan* prior to enrolment of their child if required
- develop a *Medical Risk Minimisation Plan* for their child in collaboration with management and educators and the child's medical practitioner for long-term medication plans
- develop a *Medical Communication Plan* in collaboration with management and educators
- notify educators, verbally when children are taking any short-term medications (at home)
- complete and sign an *Administration of Medication Record* for their child requiring any medication to be administered by educators/staff whilst at the Service including signing and dating it for inclusion in the child's medication records
- update (or verify currency of) *Medical Management Plan* annually or as the child's medication needs change
- be requested to sign consent to use creams and lotions
- keep prescribed medications in original containers with pharmacy labels. Please understand that medication will only be administered as directed by the medical practitioner and only to the child whom the medication has been prescribed for. Expired medications will not be administered.
- adhere to our Service's *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy and Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*
- keep children away at home while any symptoms of an illness remain
- keep children at home for 24 hours from commencing antibiotics to ensure they have no side effects to the medication
- NOT leave any medication in children's bags

- give any medication for their children to an educator who will provide the family with an *Administration of Medication Record* to complete
- complete the *Administration of Medication Record* (educator will then sign to acknowledge receipt of medication)

GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PARACETAMOL

- Paracetamol is not to be used as a first aid or emergency treatment
- Parents/guardians will be notified immediately and asked to organise collection of the child as soon as possible [usually within 30 minutes]
- While waiting for the child to be collected, educators will:
 - remove excess clothing to cool the child down
 - offer fluids to the child
 - encourage the child to rest
 - monitor the child for any additional symptoms
 - maintain supervision of the ill child at all times, while keeping them separated from children who are well.

MEDICATIONS KEPT AT THE SERVICE

- Any medication, cream or lotion kept on the premises will be checked monthly for expiry dates
- A list of First Aid Kit contents close to expiry or running low will be given to the director or first aid officer who will arrange for the purchase of replacement supplies
- If a child's individual medication is due to expire or running low, the family will be notified by educators that replacement items are required
- It is the family's responsibility to take home short-term medication (such as antibiotics) at the end of each day, and return it with the child as necessary
- MEDICATION WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED IF IT IS PAST THE PRODUCT EXPIRY DATE
- Families are required to complete an *Administration of Medication Record* for lotions to be administered.

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION [REG. 93(5)]

- In the occurrence of an emergency and where the administration of medication must occur, the nominated supervisor/director must attempt to receive verbal authorisation by a parent, or a person named in the child's enrolment form who is authorised to consent to the administration of medication.
- If all the child's nominated contacts are non-contactable, the nominated supervisor/director must contact a registered medical practitioner or emergency service on 000
- In the event of an emergency and where the administration of medication must occur, written notice must be provided to a parent of the child or other emergency contact person listed on the child's enrolment form as soon as practicable
- The approved provider/nominated supervisor/management will contact the regulatory authority within 24 hours as soon as practicably possible (if urgent medical attention was sought or the child attended hospital)
- The child will be comforted, reassured, and removed to a quiet area under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced and trained educator.

EMERGENCY INVOLVING ANAPHYLAXIS OR ASTHMA [Reg. 94]

- For anaphylaxis or asthma emergencies, medication/treatment will be administered to a child without authorisation, following the Asthma or Anaphylaxis Action Plan provided by the parent/guardian. [National Asthma Council (NAC) or ASCIA]
- In the event of a child not known to have **asthma** and appears to be in severe respiratory distress, the *Administration of First Aid Procedure* must be followed immediately
 - an ambulance must be called
 - place child in a seated upright position

- give 4 separate puffs of a reliever medication (e.g.: Ventolin) using a spacer if required
- repeat every 4 minutes until the ambulance arrives
- In the event of a child not known to be diagnosed with **anaphylaxis** and appears to be an **anaphylaxis** emergency where any of the following symptoms are present, an EpiPen must be administered
 - difficulty/noisy breathing
 - swelling of the tongue
 - swelling or tightness in throat
 - difficulty talking
 - wheeze or persistent cough
 - persistent dizziness or collapse pale and floppy (Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network – 2020)

The approved provider/nominated supervisor/responsible person will contact the following (as required) as soon as practicably possible:

- Emergency Services 000
- a parent of the child
- the regulatory authority within 24 hours (if urgent medical attention was sought or child attended hospital).

The child will be comforted, reassured, and removed to a quiet area under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced and trained educator.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Administration of Medication Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with children, families, educators, staff and management.

CHILDCARE CENTRE DESKTOP - RELATED RESOURCES

Administration of First Aid Procedure	Medical Communication Plan
Administration of Medication Procedure	Medical Management Plan
Administration of Medication Record	Medical Risk Management Plan

SOURCES

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2023). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).
- Australian society of clinical immunology & allergy. <https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis>
- Australian Government Department of Education. (2022). [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.V2.0](#).
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).
- National Health and Medical Research Council. (2013). *Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (5th Ed.). Australia: Commonwealth of Australia. NSW Government. (n.d.).
- NSW Department of Health: www.health.nsw.gov.au
- Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Alice Mustin	Approved Provider	August 2024
POLICY REVIEWED	April 2024	NEXT REVIEW DATE	April 2025
VERSION NUMBER	12.04.24		
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual policy review • removal of reference to Sick Child Policy • information required on administration of medication record expanded • revised Administration of Paracetamol section • sources checked for currency and updated as required 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	