

CHESTER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT 24

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA
INHALERS/EPINEPHRINE
AUTO-INJECTORS

ADOPTED: September 21, 2011

REVISED: March 20, 2019

<p>1. Authority SC 1414.1 Pol. 103.1</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1401</p> <p>3. Guidelines SC 1414.1 Title 22 Sec. 12.41</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">210.1. POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS/EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS</p> <p>The Board shall permit students participating in Intermediate Unit programs to possess asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors and to self-administer the prescribed medication in compliance with state law and Board policy.</p> <p>The Board shall authorize the Intermediate Unit to stock epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of the Intermediate Unit for emergency administration by trained employees to a student believed to be experiencing an anaphylactic reaction.</p> <p>Anaphylaxis - a sudden, severe allergic reaction that involves various areas of the body simultaneously. In extreme cases, anaphylaxis can cause death.</p> <p>Asthma inhaler shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to treat an acute asthma attack.</p> <p>Epinephrine auto-injector shall mean a prescribed disposable drug delivery system designed for the self-administration of epinephrine to provide rapid first aid for persons suffering the effects of anaphylaxis.</p> <p>Self-administration shall mean a student's use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.</p> <p>Administration of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors shall comply with Board policy, Intermediate Unit procedures and individualized student plans such as an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Service Agreement (Service Agreement), Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP), or Emergency Care Plan (ECP).[2][3][7][8][9][10]</p> <p>In order to maintain a student's health and safety, each student's individualized plan shall address what information will be provided to Intermediate Unit staff and other adults who have responsibility for the student in the school setting.[2][8][11][12][13][14]</p> <p>Student health records shall be confidential and maintained in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.[12][13]</p>
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When stocking epinephrine injectors, administration will take into account the expiration date and shelf life (20 months) of the epinephrine injectors.

Student Self-Administration of Asthma Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector in the school setting, the Board shall require the following:

1. A written request from the parent/guardian that the Intermediate Unit complies with the order of the licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP), or physician assistant (PA-C).
2. A written statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the Intermediate Unit is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the Intermediate Unit and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.
3. A written statement from the licensed physician, CRNP or PA-C that states:
 - a. Name of the drug.
 - b. Prescribed dosage.
 - c. Times medication is to be taken.
 - d. Length of time medication is prescribed.
 - e. Diagnosis or reason medication is needed, unless confidential.
 - f. Potential serious reaction or side effects of medication.
 - g. Emergency response.
 - h. If student is qualified and able to self-administer the medication.
4. A written acknowledgement from the school nurse that the student has demonstrated that s/he is capable of self-administration of the asthma inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector in the school setting. Determination of competency for self-administration shall be based on the student's age, cognitive function, maturity and demonstration of responsible behavior.[\[1\]](#)
5. A written acknowledgement from the student that s/he has received instruction from the student's licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant on proper safety precautions for the handling and disposal of the asthma inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector, including acknowledgement that the student will not allow other students to have access to the prescribed

	<p>medication and that s/he understands appropriate safeguards.</p>
<p>SC 1414.1</p>	<p>The student shall notify the school nurse immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector.</p>
	<p>The Intermediate Unit reserves the right to require a statement from the physician, CRNP or PA-C for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period.</p>
<p>SC 1414.1</p>	<p>A written request for student use of an asthma inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector shall be submitted annually, along with required written statements from the parent/guardian and an updated prescription.</p>
<p>SC 1409 Pol. 216</p>	<p>Student health records shall be confidential and maintained in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.</p>
<p>SC 1414.1</p>	<p>A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector and to self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the competency for self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication. Determination of competency for self-administration shall be based on the student's age, cognitive function, maturity and demonstration of responsible behavior.</p>
<p>SC 1414.1 Pol. 113.1, 218, 227</p>	<p>Students shall be prohibited from sharing, giving, selling, and using an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector in any manner other than which it is prescribed during school hours, at any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent traveling to and from school and school-sponsored activities. Violations of this policy, provisions of a Service Agreement or IEP, or demonstration of unwillingness or inability to safeguard the asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector may result in loss of privilege to self-carry the asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector and disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy and applicable procedural safeguards.</p>
<p>SC 1414.1</p>	<p>If the Intermediate Unit denies a student's request to self-carry an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector or the student has lost the privilege of self-carrying an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector, the student's prescribed medication shall be appropriately stored at a location in close proximity to the student. The school nurse, other designated Intermediate Unit employees and the student's classroom teachers shall be informed where the medication is stored and the means to access the medication.</p>
<p>SC 1414.1 Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p>The Intermediate Unit shall provide to students and parents/guardians this policy along with the Code of Student Conduct.</p> <p>The Intermediate Unit shall post this policy on the Intermediate Unit's website, if available.</p>

<p>3. 24 P.S. 1414.2 17. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8332 18. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8337.1 19. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8541 20. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8545</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>24 P.S. 1414.2 24 P.S. 1414.9 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8547 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8548</p>	<p><u>Administration of Stock Epinephrine Auto-Injectors</u></p> <p>When responding to a student believed to be experiencing an anaphylactic reaction, a trained Intermediate Unit employee shall:[3][17][18][19][20]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer an epinephrine auto-injector that meets the prescription on file for either the student or the Intermediate Unit. If the student is authorized to self-administer an epinephrine auto-injector, the trained Intermediate Unit employee may provide the student with an epinephrine auto-injector that meets the prescription on file for either the student or the Intermediate Unit for self-administration. 2. Call for medical help immediately (dial 9-1-1). 3. Take additional precautions or steps outlined in emergency response procedures and training, including the administration of a second dose of epinephrine, if necessary. 4. Stay with the student until emergency medical help arrives. 5. Cooperate with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel responding to the incident. 6. Notify the school nurse or designee of the incident. <p>The Executive Director and/or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse(s), shall develop administrative regulations for student possession of asthma inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors and self-administration of prescribed medication and emergency response; and for the acquisition, stocking and administration of stock epinephrine auto-injectors, and training of Intermediate Unit employees responsible for the storage and use of epinephrine auto-injectors.</p> <p>The Executive Director or designee shall obtain a standing order for stock epinephrine auto-injectors.</p> <p>The school nurse shall be responsible for building-level storage of and administration of stock epinephrine auto-injectors.</p> <p>The Executive Director or designee shall annually distribute to students, parents/guardians, and staff this policy along with the Code of Student Conduct by publishing such in handbooks and newsletters, on the Intermediate Unit’s website, and through posted notices and other efficient methods.</p> <p><u>Indemnification</u></p> <p>The Intermediate Unit shall indemnify and hold harmless any employee who administers an epinephrine auto-injector in good faith to a student experiencing anaphylaxis, if all of these conditions apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The employee did not act with the intent to harm or with reckless indifference to a substantial risk or harm in administering the epinephrine auto-injector to the student. 2. The employee successfully completed the training required by this policy.
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3. The employee promptly sought additional medical assistance before or immediately after administering the epinephrine auto-injector.
4. The employee administered the epinephrine auto-injector pursuant to this policy, and the student's individualized plan, if applicable.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1401, 1409, 1414.1

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3, 12.41

Board Policy – 000, 103.1, 113.1, 216, 218, 227

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 1414.1](#)

2. Pol. 103.1

[3. 24 P.S. 1414.2](#)

[4. 24 P.S. 1401](#)

[5. 22 PA Code 12.3](#)

6. Pol. 218

[7. 22 PA Code 12.41](#)

8. Pol. 113

9. Pol. 209.1

10. Pol. 210

[11. 24 P.S. 1409](#)

12. Pol. 113.4

13. Pol. 216

14. Pol. 810

15. Pol. 113.1

16. Pol. 227

[17. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8332](#)

[18. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8337.1](#)

[19. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8541](#)

[20. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8545](#)

[21. 24 P.S. 1414.9](#)

[22. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8547](#)

[23. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8548](#)

[Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidance - Epinephrine Auto-Injector Administration, May 2018](#)

Revised:

June 15, 2016

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