

POLICY RELATING TO PUPIL SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

The Wachusett Regional School District endorses the recommendation of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Education that students who require prescription medication during the school day receive their medication in order to maximize both daily school attendance and participation in school-sponsored functions.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulates the administration of prescription medications and has formulated detailed regulations governing the administration of prescription medications in both public and private schools (105 CMR 210.000). The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing governs nursing practice, which includes the nurse's administration of all medications, including over-the-counter medications. Both the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations and those which govern nursing practice are incorporated in Wachusett Regional School District's *Health Guidelines and Nursing Protocols*, a reference book which addresses the administration of medication. Included in these guidelines are provisions for the safe and proper administration of medication to students by both clinical and non-clinical personnel. The Wachusett Regional School District encourages the delegation of the administration of medication when necessary, in collaboration with parents and guardians, to non-clinical personnel in accordance with these guidelines.

The major points of these regulations include:

- The school nurse is responsible for the safe administration and documentation of medications dispensed in schools.
- Upon the registration and approval by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the school nurse, in consultation with the school physician, may delegate the administration of medication on field trips and short term special school events to designated unlicensed school personnel according to criteria in 105 CMR 210.000.
- Upon the registration and approval by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the school nurse, in consultation with the school physician, may delegate the administration of epinephrine to students with diagnosed life-threatening allergic conditions when a school nurse is not immediately available to designated unlicensed school personnel, according to criteria in 105 CMR 210.100.
- The categories of unlicensed school personnel include: administrative staff, teaching staff, paraprofessionals, licensed health personnel, clerical staff, bus attendants, transportation personnel, and contracted special education personnel.

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ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION (continued)

A parent, guardian or parent/guardian-designated responsible adult shall deliver all prescription and non-prescription medications to be administered by school personnel. In the case of self-medicating students, students may transport and self-administer medications when a self-administration agreement has been documented. Self-medicating students include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Students with asthma or other respiratory diseases. These students may possess and administer prescription inhalers.
2. Students with cystic fibrosis. These students may possess and administer enzyme supplements.
3. Students with diabetes. These students may possess and administer glucose monitoring tests, insulin delivery systems, and glucose tablets, according to documented self-administration agreement.

Legal Reference: MGL 71:54B
Department of Public Health Regulations: 105 CMR 210.00

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