

Opelika City Schools Medication Guidelines

Medication administration aids in the delivery of medications to students diagnosed with chronic and acute conditions requiring medication in the school setting.

Examples of chronic conditions requiring medication include but are not limited to the following:

- Asthma
- ADHD/ADD
- Diabetes
- Anaphylaxis
- Epilepsy
- Cystic Fibrosis

Examples of acute conditions requiring medication include but are not limited to the following:

- Bronchitis
- Injuries
- Burns

Opelika City Schools (OCS) Nursing Staff will not administer herbals, supplements, or compounded drugs. All medications must be FDA approved.

First doses of all medications must be given at home. This includes any changes to existing medications.

Controlled substances cannot be administered for acute conditions. If a student needs a controlled substance for an acute condition, such as pain, the parent/guardian may come to the school to administer the medication to his/her student.

Delivery of medications to the school:

A parent/guardian must deliver all medication and student supplies. Students are not allowed to deliver medications to the school.

No more than a 30-day supply of medication will be accepted.

Please call the school nurse before delivering medication.

Medications will be administered until the parent/guardian requests, in writing, to discontinue or healthcare provider requests discontinuation or until the supply is depleted. Parents/guardians will be notified when supply is nearly depleted to allow opportunity for replenishment.

Prescription Medications:

If a student should need a prescription medication during school hours, including after school activities, the parent/guardian has the following choices:

1. Come to the school and give the medication to the student at the appropriate time(s).
2. Obtain a Prescribed/Parent Authorization (PPA) from the student's school or OCS website (Must be signed by the licensed healthcare provider AND parent/guardian).
3. Discuss with the student's licensed healthcare provider an alternative schedule outside of school hours.

The school nurse must be notified in writing from the parent or healthcare provider of a chronic or acute condition requiring medication.

A Prescribed/parent Authorization (PPA) must be signed by the student's licensed healthcare provider AND parent/guardian.

The form must include the medication name, dosage, reason given, route, start date, stop date, potential side effects or adverse effects and the time of day the medication is to be administered.

A new form must be completed if the student's medication, dosage, or times administered should change during the school year.

A prescription medication may be given for 3 days using the pharmacy label without a PPA only if ALL administration instructions are listed. If parent/guardian does not provide a PPA by day three, parent/guardian will be responsible for picking up the medication or it will be discarded.

All medications delivered to the school must be in the original container with a pharmacy label (in English) stating the student's name and administration instructions on the pharmacy label that match the Prescriber/Parent Authorization form.

If the student's licensed healthcare provider feels that the student can self-administer and/or self-carry his/her medication, the licensed healthcare provider may sign for the student to self-administer and/or self-carry certain medications (i.e., inhalers, emergency medications). The school nurse will have the parent/guardian and student complete a Medication Self-Administration form and demonstrate proper administration and safety of that medication before they can be allowed to self-medicate during school hours and activities.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medications:

- Must be in the original unopened container.
- Must be unexpired.
- Must be age appropriate.
- Parent/guardian must sign and complete a PPA.
- The school nurse will not give aspirin or medication that contains aspirin.

***OTC medications can be kept at the school for 10 consecutive school days. If OTC medication needs to be given beyond 10 school days or repeated dose is needed, a licensed healthcare provider authorization (PPA) is required. ***

Off campus field trips and activities:

Only emergency medications for chronic conditions will be taken and administered.

The parent/guardian may attend the trip/activity with their student and administer the medication.

Students may self-administer **sunscreen** without written consent of parents. However, if school staff are asked to apply sunscreen, a PPA form must be completed by parent/guardian.

Opelika City Schools does not keep any medications (i.e., Tylenol, Antacids, Neosporin) to administer to students or staff.

Siblings are allowed to share a single bottle of over-the-counter medication if all previously stated guidelines are followed.

Any medications not picked up after expiration or by the last day of school will be disposed of in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

Opelika City Schools follows the Alabama Board of Nursing Medication Curriculum. All nurses and medication assistants receive annual training and monitoring.

If you have questions about the guidelines, or other issues related to the administration of medication in the schools, please contact the school nurse.