



# NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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**SECTION:** J - Students  
**POLICY TITLE:** Administering Medication to Students  
**FILE No.:** JHCD  
**DATED:** February 6, 2008

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### **1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY**

The administration of medication to a student while he/she is at school should only occur when deemed reasonable and necessary. When circumstances require medication to be given during school hours, the school principal or his/her designee and the school nurse will evaluate each request for medication individually in consultation with the student's parent/legal guardian, the Utah Department of Health, and other appropriate health care professionals.

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 "Alternative medicine"** is any practice that is available to the public but is not integrated into conventional medical practice.
- 2.2 "Anaphylaxis"** means a potentially life-threatening hypersensitivity to a substance. Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, difficulty talking or swallowing, hives, itching, swelling, shock, or asthma. Causes of anaphylaxis may include insect sting, food allergy, drug reaction, or exercise.
- 2.3 "Asthma medication"** means prescription or nonprescription inhaled asthma medication.
- 2.4 "Complementary medicine"** is any practice that is available to the public which is integrated along with conventional medical care.
- 2.5 "Diabetes medication"** means prescription or non-prescription medication used to treat diabetes, including related medical devices, supplies, and equipment used to treat diabetes.
- 2.6 "Epinephrine auto-injector"** means a disposable drug delivery system with a spring-activated concealed needle that is designed for emergency administration of epinephrine to provide rapid, convenient first-aid for persons suffering a potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction.

- 2.7** “**Glucagon**” is a protein hormone produced by the body which regulates carbohydrate metabolism in order to maintain normal levels of glucose in the blood. Glucagon has the opposite effect of insulin, in that glucagon increases blood glucose levels. An injectable form of glucagon is used in cases of severe hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) when the individual is unconscious or for some other reason is unable to take glucose orally.

### **3. GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT MEDICATION**

- 3.1** The Nebo School District "Authorization of Student Medication" form must be completed and signed before medication can be administered. The Authorization form must be signed by the following: (a) student's parent/legal guardian; (b) school principal; (c) school nurse; (d) school personnel authorized to administer the medication; and (e) physician or other health care provider. This Authorization form must be updated annually and as needed when there is a change in a doctor's orders for a student's medication.
- 3.2** A signed statement must be obtained from a health care provider that is authorized to prescribe in the State of Utah (i.e., physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant). The statement must either be attached to or incorporated in the Authorization form, and should describe the condition for which the medication is being used along with the method, amount, and time schedule for administration. The statement shall also include a provision stating that administration of medication by school personnel during periods when the student is under the control of the school is medically necessary.
- 3.3** The student's parent/legal guardian must bring the medication to the school and take home any remaining medication at the end of the school year. The pills should be counted by the parent/legal guardian and the school employee receiving the medication. The number of pills and the names of the persons counting the pills should be recorded on the Authorization form.
- 3.4** The medication must be in a container that is labeled by a pharmacist or appropriate health care provider. The label must include the name of the medication, route of administration, the time(s) of administration, and the health care provider's name.
- 3.5** The medication must be kept in a secure location. Access to this location will be authorized and monitored by the school principal or his/her designee. Medication requiring refrigeration shall be stored in a refrigerator.
- 3.6** The school nurse shall provide needed training to those school personnel who agree to administer the medication.
- 3.7** A daily record or log shall be kept for each student receiving medication. Each dose of medication given shall be charted by indicating the date, time given, and the signature or initials of the person administering the medication.
- 3.8** Authorization for administration of medication by school personnel may be withdrawn by the school at any time following actual notice to the student's parent/legal guardian.

### **4. EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION OF GLUCAGON**

- 4.1** A “Glucagon Authorization” form provided by the Utah Department of Health is required for a student with diabetes to receive glucagon in the case of an emergency. The Authorization form shall be completed and signed by the student's parent/legal guardian, school personnel, health care providers, and other appropriate individuals. The Authorization form shall include:
- 4.1.1** Certification that glucagon has been prescribed for the student;
- 4.1.2** A request that the student's school identify and train school personnel who volunteer to be trained in the administration of glucagon; and

- 4.1.3 Authorization that glucagon can be administered in an emergency situation to the student.
- 4.2 A person who has received glucagon administration training may administer glucagon at a school or school activity to a student with a “Glucagon Authorization” if:
  - 4.2.1 The student is exhibiting the symptoms that warrant the administration of glucagon; and
  - 4.2.2 A licensed health care professional is not immediately available.
- 4.3 A person who administers glucagon in accordance with this policy shall direct a responsible person to call 911 and take other appropriate actions in accordance with his/her glucagon administration training.

## **5. ADMINISTRATION OF NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION**

Acetaminophen (Tylenol), 5-10 grains, may be given by the school nurse or other school personnel authorized by the principal of the school. There must be documented parent/legal guardian permission, written or by telephone, for each time the medication is given.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES**

Alternative and complementary medicine includes products or practices not currently used, accepted, or available in conventional medicine. As with the administration of prescription medications, student use of alternative or complementary medicine while at school should only occur when deemed reasonable and necessary. When circumstances require alternative or complementary medication to be given during school hours, the school shall follow the same guidelines set forth in Section 3 above.

## **7. STUDENT POSSESSION AND SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF ASTHMA MEDICATION**

Utah Code Ann., §53A-11-602 permits students with asthma to possess and self-administer their asthma medications while on school property with written authorization from the student’s parent/legal guardian and an appropriate health care provider on the Nebo School District “Authorization of Student Medication” form. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to ensure that the Authorization form is updated on an annual basis and is on file at the school.

## **8. STUDENT POSSESSION AND SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE**

Utah Code Ann., §26-41-104 permits students to possess and self-administer an epinephrine auto-injector while on school property with written authorization from the student’s parent/legal guardian and an appropriate health care provider on the Nebo School District “Authorization of Student Medication” form. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to ensure that the Authorization form is updated on an annual basis and is on file at the school.

## **9. STUDENT POSSESSION AND SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF DIABETES MEDICATION**

Utah Code Ann., §53A-11-604 permits students with diabetes to possess and self-administer their diabetes medication while on school property with written authorization from the student’s parent/legal guardian and an appropriate health care provider on the Nebo School District “Authorization of Student Medication” form. It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to ensure that the Authorization form is updated on an annual basis and is on file at the school.

## **10. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY**

School personnel shall comply with this policy and with the instructions contained in the “Authorization of Student Medication” form and “Glucagon Authorization” form in order that they,

Nebo School District, and the Board of Education may take full advantage of the immunity from civil and criminal liability provisions as per Utah Code Ann., §53A-11-601, et seq. and Utah Code Ann., §26-41-101, et seq.

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**EXHIBITS**

None

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**REFERENCES**

Utah Code Ann., §53A-11-601, et seq.

Utah Code Ann., §26-41-101, et seq.

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**FORMS**

Authorization of Student Medication

Glucagon Authorization

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