

Series 500

Policy Title: POSSESSION/USE OF ASTHMA INHALERS Code: 505.6

The Lapwai School District shall permit students to possess asthma inhalers and/or epinephrine auto-injectors and to self-administer the prescribed medication used to treat asthma and/or severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis).

Possession and use of asthma inhalers and/or epinephrine auto-injectors by students shall be in accordance with Idaho Statue Chapter 5, Title 33, Section 33-520 (Policy Governing Medical Inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors) and Lapwai School District policy.

Medication means an epinephrine auto-injector, a metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler prescribed by a physician and having an individual label.

Self-administration shall mean a student's use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Before a student may possess or use an asthma inhaler during school hours, the Lapwai School District shall require the following:

- (1) A written request from the parent/guardian that the school complies with the order of the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
- (2) A signed statement from the parent/guardian acknowledging that the school is not responsible for ensuring the medication is taken and relieving the school and its employees of responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication.
- (3) A written statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant 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.

The student shall be made aware that the asthma inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector is intended for his/her use only and may not be shared with other students.

The student shall notify the school nurse or designee immediately following each use of an asthma inhaler.

Violations of this policy by a student shall result in written warning issued to parent/guardian, child and school official.

The Lapwai School District reserves the right to require a statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period. Permission for possession and use of an asthma inhaler by a student shall be effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.

A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler and self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the capability of self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.

To self-administer medication, the student must be able to:

1. Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.
2. Student is knowledgeable of purpose of individual medications.
3. Student is able to identify/associate specific symptom occurrence and need for medication administration.
4. Student is capable/knowledgeable of medication dosage.
5. Student is knowledgeable about method of medication administration.
6. Student is knowledgeable of how to access assistance for self if needed in an emergency.
7. Student is able to identify safety issues: no sharing of medications with others; need for safe storage of medication; consistent placement of medication.

The district administration, in conjunction with the school nurse, shall develop procedures for student possession of asthma inhalers and/or epinephrine auto-injectors and self-administration of prescribed medication.

The school shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the policy and procedures governing student possession and use of asthma inhalers and/or epinephrine auto-injectors. The Lapwai School District shall require that all school staff, including teachers, custodial, physical education/coaches and cafeteria staff, attend in-service on asthma and/or life threatening allergies, signs and symptoms and Lapwai School District's Emergency Response Plan for asthma.

When a student initially brings an asthma inhaler and/or an epinephrine auto-injector to the school, designated school personnel shall be responsible to complete the following:

- Assess student's readiness for self-administration of oral medications or peak flow monitoring.
- Obtain the required written request and statements from the parent/guardian and physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, which shall be kept on file in the office of the:
 - (a) School Administrator
 - (b) School Nurse

- Review pertinent information with the students and or parent/guardian, specifically the information contained on the statement submitted by the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
- Determine the student's ability to self-administer medication and the need for care and supervision using approved metered dose inhaler checklist.
- Maintain an individual medication log for all students possessing asthma inhalers.

Date of Adoption: 5/22/06
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Legal References:
Section 33-520 I.C.

Related References: