

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION POLICY

Best Practice – Quality Area 2



PURPOSE

This policy will clearly define the:

- procedures to be followed when a child requires medication while attending Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.
- responsibilities of educators, parents/guardians and the Approved Provider to ensure the safe administration of medication at Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc..

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc. is committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, educators, staff and other persons attending the service
- responding immediately to the needs of a child who is ill or becomes ill while attending the service
- ensuring safe and appropriate administration of medication in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements.

2. SCOPE

This policy covers the administration of both prescribed and non-prescribed medication at Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc., including during offsite excursions and activities.

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Persons with Management or Control, Nominated Supervisor, Persons in day-to-day Charge, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Authorisation to administer medication

As a rule, medication (including prescription, non-prescription, over-the-counter and homeopathic medications) must not be administered to a child at a service without the authorisation of a parent/guardian or person with the lawful authority to consent to the administration of medical attention to the child.

In the case of an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency, where the child does not have a medical management plan or other form of authorisation, first aid treatment is provided as described in the Anaphylaxis Policy and Asthma Policy. In this circumstance, the child's parent/guardian and emergency services must be contacted as soon as possible after first aid has commenced (Regulation 94).

In the case of all other emergencies, it is acceptable to obtain verbal consent from a parent/guardian, or to obtain consent from a registered medical practitioner or medical emergency services if the child's parent/guardian cannot be contacted.

Administration of medication

The Approved Provider must ensure that when staff administer medication, they must follow the guidelines of this policy and the procedures outlined in Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication.

A medication record¹ must be completed with the following information:

- a) the name of the child
- b) the authorisation to administer medication (including self-administration, if applicable) signed by a parent/guardian or a person named in the child's enrolment record as authorised to consent to administration of medication
- c) the name of the medication to be administered
- d) the time and date the medication was last administered
- e) the time and date or the circumstances under which the medication should be next administered
- f) the dosage of the medication to be administered
- g) the manner in which the medication is to be administered
- h) if the medication is administered to the child:
 - i) the dosage that was administered
 - ii) the manner in which the medication was administered
 - iii) the time and date the medication was administered
 - iv) the name and signature of the person who administered the medication
 - v) the name and signature of the person who checked the dosage, if another person is required under Regulation 95 to check the dosage and administration of the medication.

Services which provide education and care to a child over preschool age (as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*) may allow a child over preschool age to self-administer medication. Where a service chooses to allow self-administration of medication, the Approved Provider must consider the risks associated with this practice and their duty of care, and develop appropriate guidelines to clearly specify the circumstances under which such permission would be granted and the procedures to be followed by staff at the service.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
- *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic)
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic)
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic)
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* (Vic)
- *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (Cth)

4. DEFINITIONS

Approved first aid qualification: A list of approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training is published on the ACECQA website:

www.cecqa.gov.au

¹ A template of a medication record can be downloaded from: www.cecqa.gov.au

Illness: Any sickness and/or associated symptoms that affect the child's normal participation in the activities or program at the service.

Infectious disease: A disease that can be spread, for example, by air, water or interpersonal contact. An infectious disease is designated under Victorian Law or by a health authority (however described) as a disease that would require the infected person to be excluded from an education and care service.

Injury: Any harm or damage to a person.

Medication (prescribed): Medicine, as defined in the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (Cth), that is:

- authorised by a health care professional
- dispensed by a health care professional with a printed label that includes the name of the child being prescribed the medication, the medication dosage and expiry date.

Medication (non-prescribed): Over-the-counter medication, including vitamins and cultural herbs or homeopathic medications that may have been recommended by an alternative health care professional such as a naturopath. This does not include over the counter creams which are non-medicated and are a moisturising product eg paw paw cream, QV cream etc....

Medication record: Contains details for each child to whom medication is to be administered by the service. This includes the child's name, signed authorisation to administer medication and a record of the medication administered, including time, date, dosage, manner of administration, name and signature of person administering the medication and of the person checking the medication, if required (Regulation 92). A sample medication record is available on the ACECQA website.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- VMIA Insurance Guide and FAQs, Community Service Organisations insurance program: www.vmia.vic.gov.au
- *Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* www.acecqa.gov.au
- *Guide to the National Quality Standard* (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia: www.allergyfacts.org.au Asthma Australia: www.asthmaaustralia.org.au
- Healthdirect: www.healthdirect.gov.au

Service policies

- *Asthma Policy*
- *Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy*
- *Administration of First Aid Policy*
- *Excursions and Service Events Policy*
- *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy*
- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*
- *Enrolment and Orientation Policy*

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider and Persons with Management or Control are responsible for:

- ensuring that medication is only administered to a child being educated and cared for by the service when it is authorised, except in the case of an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency (Regulations 93, 94)
- ensuring that a medication record that meets the requirements set out in Regulation 92(3) is available at all times for recording the administration of medication to children at the service (Regulation 92). (Refer to the template *Medication Record*: www.acecqa.gov.au)
- ensuring that the medication is administered in accordance with Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication (Regulation 95) or visit: www.acecqa.gov.au
- ensuring that parents/guardians are given written notice as soon as is practicable if medication has been administered in an emergency and where authorisation has been given verbally (Regulation 93(2))
- ensuring that the parent/guardian of the child and emergency services are notified as soon as is practicable when medication has been administered in an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency (Regulation 94(2))
- ensuring that at least one educator on duty has a current approved first aid qualification, anaphylaxis management training and asthma management training (Regulation 136). (Note: this is a minimum requirement. As a demonstration of duty of care and best practice, ELAA recommends that **all educators** have current approved first aid qualifications and anaphylaxis management training and asthma management training. BWK strives to follow this recommendation.)
- developing and reviewing procedures for the authorisation and administration of medication required for the treatment or management of long-term conditions (see Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication)
- ensuring that all educators are familiar with the procedures for the administration of medication
- ensuring that medication records are kept and stored securely until the end of three years after the last date on which the child was educated and cared for by the service (Regulation 183(2)(d))
- ensuring all medication (both prescription and non-prescription) to be administered by **BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN Inc.** is in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration with pharmacist's label detailing these directions. Expiry date visible. To be clear, this is expected for all medication to be administered (prescription and over-the-counter) with sunscreen and moisturising products being the exception.

The Nominated Supervisor and Persons in Day-to-Day Charge are responsible for:

- ensuring that medication is only given to a child where authorisation has been provided, and medication is administered in accordance with legislation and this policy (Regulations 93, 94) ensuring that the medication is administered in accordance with Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication (Regulation 95)
- ensuring that the parent/guardian of the child and emergency services are notified as soon as is practicable when medication has been administered in an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency (Regulation 94(2))
- ensuring that medication is not accessible to children and is stored in its original container (including in the refrigerator for medications requiring refrigeration)
- being aware of children who require medication for ongoing conditions or in emergencies, and ensuring that the medical management plans are completed and attached to the child's enrolment form (Regulation 162), and displayed for use by those caring for children (being sensitive to privacy requirements and asking families for consent to display)

- documenting situations in which an authorised person has provided verbal authorisation but has refused to confirm the authorisation in writing (these notes are to be kept with the child's enrolment record)
- informing parents/guardians as soon as is practicable if an incident occurs in which the child was administered the incorrect medication or incorrect dose as prescribed in the medication record, staff forgot to administer the medication or the medication was administered at the wrong time. Staff must also ensure that any medication that is accidentally dropped is not administered to a child or returned to the original container, and that parents/guardians are informed if an incident of this nature occurs
- informing parents/guardians that non-prescribed medication (with the exception of sunscreen) will only be administered for a maximum of 48 hours, after which a medical management plan from a doctor will be required for its continued use
- informing parents/guardians that paracetamol is not supplied by Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc. and that the administration of paracetamol will be in line with the administration of all other medication (refer to Attachment 2 – Administration of paracetamol).
- ensuring all medication (both prescription and non-prescription) to be administered by **BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN Inc.** is in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration with pharmacist's label detailing these directions. Expiry date visible. To be clear, this is expected for all medication to be administered (prescription and over-the-counter) with sunscreen and moisturising products being the exception.

All staff are responsible for:

- ensuring that each child's enrolment form provides details of the name, address and telephone number of any person who has lawful authority to request and permit the administration of medication to the child (Regulation 160(3)(iv))
- administering medication in accordance with Regulation 95 and the guidelines set out in Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication
- communicating with parents/guardians about the procedures outlined in this policy and the parent/guardian responsibilities when requesting medication be administered to their child, and making the medication record available for parents/guardians to record information during operational hours
- ensuring that all details in the medication record have been completed by parents/guardians/authorised persons in accordance with Regulation 92(3) prior to administering medication
- obtaining verbal authorisation for the administration of medication from the child's parents/guardians/authorised person (as recorded in the child's enrolment record), or a registered medical practitioner or medical emergency services when an authorised person cannot reasonably be contacted in an emergency (Regulation (93)(5)(b))
- ensuring that two staff members, one of whom must be an educator, are present when verbal permission to administer medication is received, and that details of this verbal authorisation are completed in the medication record
- ensuring that verbal permission is followed up with a written authorisation as soon as is practicable
- ensuring that parents/guardians take all medication home at the end of each session/day.
- ensuring all medication (both prescription and non-prescription) to be administered by **BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN Inc.** is in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration with pharmacist's label detailing these directions. To be clear, this is expected for all medication to be administered (prescription and over-the-counter) with sunscreen and moisturising products being the exception.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- ensuring that any medication to be administered is recorded in the medication record kept at the service premises

- providing a current medical management plan when their child requires long-term treatment of a condition that includes medication, or their child has been prescribed medication to be used for a diagnosed condition in an emergency
- ensuring that the details of authorised persons are kept up to date on the child's enrolment form
- ensuring that prescribed medications to be administered at the service are provided in their original container with the label intact, bearing the child's name, dosage, instructions and the expiry date (Regulation 95(a)(i)) and with pharmacist's label detailing these directions
- ensuring all non-prescription medication to be is in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration with pharmacist's label detailing these directions. To be clear, this is expected for all medication to be administered (prescription and over-the-counter) with sunscreen and moisturising products being the exception.
- ensuring that all medications to be administered at the service are within their expiry date
- physically handing the medication to a staff member and informing them of the appropriate storage and administration instructions for the medication provided
- clearly labelling non-prescription medications and over-the-counter products (for example sun block and nappy cream) with the child's name before giving to a staff member. The instructions and use-by dates must also be visible
- ensuring that no medication or over-the-counter products (including sunscreen) are not left in their child's bag or locker
- taking all medication home at the end of each session/day (except medication stored in their child's asthma and/or anaphylaxis kits)
- informing the service if any medication has been administered to the child before bringing them to the service, and if the administration of that medication is relevant to or may affect the care provided to the child at the service. This includes paracetamol and allergy medications.
- ensuring that their child's enrolment details are up to date, and providing current details of persons who have lawful authority to request or permit the administration of medication.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Procedures for the safe administration of medication
- Attachment 2: Administration of paracetamol

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc. on May 2021

REVIEW DATE: MAY 2023

ATTACHMENT 1

Procedures for the safe administration of medication

Two persons (one of whom must be an educator) are responsible for the administration of any medication⁴. At least one of these persons must hold a current approved first aid qualification. One person will check the details (including dosage and the identity of the child who is given the medication) and witness its administration, while the other person will administer the medication (Regulation 95(c)). Before administering any medication to a child, it is extremely important for staff to check if the child has any allergies to the medication being administered.

All medication (both prescription and non-prescription) to be administered by **BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN** must be in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration with pharmacists label detailing these directions. Expiry date must be visible. To be clear, this is expected for all medication to be administered (prescription and over-the-counter).

Paracetamol is not supplied by **BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN** and the administration of paracetamol will be in line with the administration of all other medication (refer to Attachment 2 – Administration of paracetamol).

Procedure for administration of medication

1. Wash and dry hands thoroughly before administering any medication. If appropriate, gloves are recommended wherever possible.
2. Check the medication record to confirm date, time, dosage and the child to whom the medication is to be administered.
3. Check that *all medication*:
 - is in its original container, bearing the original label and instructions
 - is the correct medication, as listed in the medication record
 - has the child's name on it
 - has a pharmacy label including instructions of use - this includes non-prescribed medications (sunscreen and moisturising products being the exception).
 - is the required dosage, as listed in the medication record
 - has not passed its expiry date.
4. When administering the medication, ensure that:
 - the identity of the child is confirmed and matched to the specific medication
 - the correct dosage is given
 - the medication is administered in accordance with the instructions attached to the medication, or any written or verbal instructions provided by a registered medical practitioner
 - both staff members complete the medication record (Regulation 92(3)(h)) and store any remaining medication appropriately, such as in the refrigerator if required
 - the Nominated Supervisor or kindergarten staff informs the parent/guardian on arrival to collect the child that medication has been administered and ensures that the parent/guardian completes the required details in the medication record.

⁴ Note: under Regulation 95(c), this is not a requirement in an education and care service that is permitted to have only one educator to educate and care for children.

Administration of medication for ongoing medical conditions

Where a child is diagnosed with a condition that requires ongoing medication or medication to be administered in emergencies, parents/guardians may authorise the administration of the medication for a defined period (up to six months). In these cases:

- a medical management plan completed by the child's doctor should be provided and attached to the child's enrolment form (or on display, where appropriate)
- the medical management plan should define:
 - the name of the medication, dosage and frequency of administration
 - conditions under which medication should be administered
 - what actions, if any, should be taken following the administration of the medication
- when medication is required under these circumstances, educators/staff should:
 - follow the procedures listed above
 - ensure that the required details are completed in the medication record
 - notify the parents as soon as is practicable.

Refer to the *Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy* for further information.

ATTACHMENT 2

Administration of paracetamol

There may be times when a child develops a fever while at the service. When this occurs, there may be a need to administer paracetamol. Please Note: Paracetamol is not supplied by **BENTLEIGH WEST KINDERGARTEN** and the administration of paracetamol will be in line with the administration of all other medication.

A high fever in a young child can be a sign of infection and must be investigated to find the cause. However, fever itself is not necessarily an indicator of serious illness. The normal temperature range for a child is up to 38°C. Fevers are common in children and if the child appears happy and well, there is no need to treat a fever, but it is important to watch the child for signs that the fever is a symptom of an illness that may worsen.

In the case of a high fever, parents/guardians will be notified and asked to collect the child as soon as possible to take the child to a doctor/hospital, or an ambulance will be called to the service. While the service is waiting for the child to be collected by the parent/guardian, staff will use measures, such as removing clothing and encouraging the intake of fluids, to keep the child cool, comfortable and well hydrated.

Paracetamol is not appropriate first aid or emergency treatment, and will be treated as any other medication, including requiring prior written and signed consent for its administration.

If parents/guardians request that educators/staff administer paracetamol, educators/staff should:

- administer only to a child who has a temperature above 38.5°C and is in discomfort or pain
- administer only one dose of paracetamol in any instance
- use preparations that contain paracetamol only, not a 'cold and flu' or combined preparation
- use only single doses, disposable droppers or applicators that were provided by the family
- be aware that there are numerous dose forms and concentrations in paracetamol for children and administer the most appropriate concentration and dose for the child who is being administered the paracetamol.

Educators *will not*:

- administer paracetamol for mild fever (under 38.5°C), gastroenteritis or as a sedative.
- administer paracetamol if
 - medication is not in original container
 - a pharmacist's label bearing the child's name detailing dose and frequency of administration is not visible or
- Expiry date is not visible.

Reference

Victorian State Government (February 2021), *Managing illness in schools and early childhood*:
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/managing-unwell-child-or-staff-member>

Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne (July 2020), *Fever in children*:
https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Fever_in_children/

Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne (July 2020), *Pain relief for children – paracetamol and ibuprofen*:
https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Pain_relief_for_children/