


Policy Title:	Early Years Policy - Administration of medication		
Date of Adoption:	10 April 2013		
Adoption Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> CEO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Executive
Acting CEO Signature:			Date: 6 October 2020
Responsible Officer and Unit:	Coordinator Early Years Services, Early Years Unit		
Nominated Review Period:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - 3 years	
Last Review Date:	October 2020		
Next Review Date:	September 2023		
Purpose/Objective:	To define the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsibilities of staff and educators, parents/guardians to ensure the safe administration of medication at Macedon Ranges Shire Council Early Years Services, and procedures to be followed when a child requires medication whilst attending a Macedon Ranges Shire Council Early Years' Service 		
Background/Reasons for Policy:	<p>Authorisation to administer medication</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>Early Years Policy - Anaphylaxis</i> and the <i>Early Years Policy - Asthma</i>. In this circumstance, the child's parent/guardian and/or emergency services must be contacted as soon as possible after first aid has commenced (<i>Regulation 94</i>).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Administration of medication</p> <p>When educators are required to administer medication, they must abide by specific regulatory requirements, such as written consent, and must follow the guidelines of this policy and the procedures outlined in Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication.</p> <p>A medication record must be completed with the following information:</p> <p>a) the name of the child</p>		

DOCUMENT HISTORY	Version	Date	Author
Initial Draft	1	20/11/15	D.Earp
Second Draft	2	2/7/2020	A O'Sullivan
Final Draft	3	10/2020	J Laurent Goeman
Approval		10/2020	Executive Meeting

	<p>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</p> <p>c) the name of the medication to be administered</p> <p>d) the time and date the medication was last administered</p> <p>e) the time and date or the circumstances under which the medication should be next administered</p> <p>f) the dosage of the medication to be administered</p> <p>g) the manner in which the medication is to be administered</p> <p>h) if the medication is administered to the child:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i) the dosage that was administered</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii) the manner in which the medication was administered</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iii) the time and date the medication was administered</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iv) the name and signature of the person who administered the medication</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">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</p>
<p>Definitions:</p>	<p>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.acecqa.gov.au</p> <p>Illness: any sickness and/or associated symptoms that affect the child's normal participation in the activities or program at the service.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Injury: any harm or damage to a person.</p> <p>Medication: prescribed and non-prescribed medication as defined below:</p> <p>Prescribed Medication: medicine, as defined in the <i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</i> (Cth), that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Non-prescribed medication: 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>References:</p>	<p>VMIA Insurance Guide, Community Service Organisations program: www.vmia.vic.gov.au</p>

	<p><i>Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</i> (ACECQA, Oct 2011)</p> <p><i>Guide to the National Quality Standard</i> (ACECQA, Oct 2011)</p> <p>National Health and Medical Research Council (2005), <i>Staying Healthy in Child Care: Preventing infectious diseases in child care</i>, available at www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines or email nhmrc.publications@nhmrc.gov.au</p> <p>Anaphylaxis Australia: www.allergyfacts.org.au/foodalerts.asp</p> <p>Asthma Australia: www.asthmaaustralia.org.au</p> <p>Immunise Australia Program: www.immunise.health.gov.au</p> <p>National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): www.nhmrc.gov.au</p> <p>National Prescribing Service (NPS): www.nps.org.au</p>
<p>Related Policies:</p>	<p><i>Early Years Policy - Managing medical conditions</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Administration of First Aid</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Excursions and Service events</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Incident, injury, trauma and illness</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Managing anaphylaxis</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Asthma</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Diabetes</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Epilepsy</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Enrolment and orientation</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Policy - Managing infectious diseases</i></p> <p><i>Privacy Policy</i></p>
<p>Related Legislation:</p>	<p><i>Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010</i></p> <p><i>Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</i></p> <p> Specific Regulations: 92, 93, 94, 95, 96</p> <p> Related Regulations: 90, 91, 160, 161, 162, 168, 177, 178, 181–184</p> <p><i>Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001</i></p> <p><i>Health Records Act 2001</i></p> <p><i>National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety</i></p> <p> Standard 2.1: Each child’s health is promoted</p> <p> Elements 2.1.1 and 2.1.4</p> <p><i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004</i></p> <p><i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)</i></p> <p><i>Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (Vic)</i></p> <p><i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth)</i></p>

Mandatory - Quality Area 2

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, staff, contractors, students on placement at kindergartens, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Early Years Services including during offsite excursions and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- ensuring medication is not administered to a child being educated and cared for by the service unless it is authorised, except in the case of an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency (*Regulation 93, 94*)
- ensuring medication is administered in accordance with Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication (*Regulation 95*)
- ensuring a medication record which 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*)
- ensuring 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 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 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, MRSC teachers and educators all have current, approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management training and asthma management qualification)
- 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 all educators are familiar with the procedures for the administration of medication (see Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication)
- ensuring medication records are kept and stored securely until the end of 3 years after the last date on which the child was educated and cared for by the service (*Regulation 183(2)(d)*)

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

- ensuring 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)*)
- ensuring medication is administered in accordance with Attachment 1 – Procedures for the safe administration of medication (*Regulation 95*)
- ensuring medication is only given to a child where authorisation has been provided, except in the case of an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency (*Regulation 93(3), 94*)
- ensuring the parent/guardian of the child and emergency services are notified as soon as practicable when medication has been administered in an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency (*Regulation 94(2)*)
- ensuring medication is not accessible to children and is stored in a childproof container (including in the refrigerator for medications requiring refrigeration)

- being aware of children who require medication for ongoing conditions or in emergencies, ensuring 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)
- 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 practicable if an incident occurs in which the child was administered the incorrect medication, 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

All staff are responsible for:

- ensuring 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 parent/guardian responsibilities when requesting medication be administered to their child, procedures for administration outlined in this policy, and making the medication record available for parents/guardians to record information during operational hours
- ensuring 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), a registered medical practitioner or emergency services worker when an authorised person cannot reasonably be contacted in an emergency (*Regulation (93)(5)(b)*)
- ensuring 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 verbal permission is followed up with a written authorisation as soon as is practicable
- ensuring parents/guardians take all medication home at the end of each session/day (with the exception of medicines held on site for specific medical conditions - refer *Early Years Policies - Anaphylaxis, Epilepsy, Diabetes and Asthma*)

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- ensuring 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 requiring medication, or a prescribed medication for a diagnosed condition to be used in an emergency
- ensuring the details of authorised persons are kept up to date on the child's enrolment form
- ensuring prescribed medications to be administered at the service are provided in their original container with the label intact, with the child's name, medication name, dosage, instructions and expiry date visible (*Regulation 95(a)(i)*)
- ensuring prescribed 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, with the instructions and expiry date visible
- ensuring no medication or over-the-counter products are left in their child's bag or locker
- taking all medication home at the end of each session/day
- 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
- ensuring their child's enrolment details are up to date, 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 1

Procedures for the safe administration of medication

Two persons (one of whom must be an educator) are responsible for the administration of any medication¹. 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. Check the enrolment record.

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 *prescription medication*:
 - is in its original container, with the original label and instructions
 - is the correct medication, as listed in the medication record
 - has the child's name on it (if the medication was prescribed by a registered medical practitioner)
 - is the required dosage, as listed in the medication record
 - is within the expiry date
4. Check that *non-prescription medication*:
 - is in the original container, with the original label and instructions
 - is the correct medication, as listed in the medication record
 - has the child's name on it
 - is the required dosage, as listed in the medication record
 - is within the expiry date
5. When administering the medication, ensure that:
 - the identity of the child is confirmed and matched to the specific medication
 - 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
 - the correct dosage is given
 - 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 Certified Supervisor 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

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:

¹ 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.

- 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
 - the actions, if any, which 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 the required details are completed in the medication record
 - notify parents/guardians as soon as is practicable

Refer to the *Early Years Policy – Managing medical conditions policy* for further information.