

SELF-MEDICATION FOR ASTHMA INHALERS

Authorization Form

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Home Tel: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Name of Medication: _____

Dosage: _____

Date to begin administration: _____

Date to end administration: _____

Adverse reactions that should be reported to physician:

Adverse reactions for unauthorized user:

Procedure to follow in the event that medication does not produce the expected relief from student's asthma attack:

Other special instructions:

Physician and Parent/Guardian Names, Signatures, and Emergency Telephone Numbers

Physician Name: _____ Tel: _____

Signature of Physician: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____ Home Tel: _____

Work Tel: _____

Other Tel: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

Copies must be provided to the principal and to the school nurse.

ASTHMA INHALER LAW

ENACTED AUGUST 1999

An asthma inhaler bill was passed in Ohio in August 1999. This bill allows students to self-administer inhalers in schools.

The amendment included the addition of instructions "That outline procedures school personnel should follow in the event the asthma medication does not produce relief from a student's asthma attack," and the addition of emergency phone numbers for the parent/guardian and physician. This language was proposed to protect the health of the student. Other than school nurses, few school personnel are trained to manage the treatment of an asthma attack or to recognize a serious turn of events should the asthma medication not produce relief. Written instructions that outline proper procedures for school personnel to follow will help safeguard the child's well being and could save a life. Children with severe asthma have been known to have an attack, treat it properly with the medication prescribed and still have breathing deteriorate so rapidly that they are unable to speak. The written instructions would speak for them. Since there is not a school nurse in every school building, it is imperative that written instructions be provided so that teachers, coaches, substitute teachers, secretaries, principals, bus drivers and parent volunteers on field trips, will be able to act swiftly and appropriately should the student not receive relief from an asthma attack. have included a synopsis of the new law.

SUMMARY OF LAW

This law permits students of school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools to carry asthma inhalers with the consent of the students' physician and parents. In addition, the bill would grant immunity to school districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic schools and their employees for good faith actions in connection with this permission.

The written approval form shall include at least all of the following:

1. Physician and parent/guardian written authorization;
2. The student's name and address;
3. Name and dose of the medication contained in the inhaler;
4. Date administration is to begin and cease;
5. Written instructions that outline procedures school personnel should follow in the event the medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's asthma attack;
6. Side effects or severe reactions that may occur to the child for whom the medication was prescribed or to any other child using the inhaler;
7. Emergency phone numbers for physician, parent and/or guardian;
8. Other special instructions.

The school principal and school nurse should receive a copy of the written approval.

School nurses are now challenged to promote the health of their students with asthma by:

- Interpreting this new law to parents, physicians, teachers, administrators staff and students.
- Work with school personnel to review and update school districts' medication policies including issues regarding self-administration (A school district may choose to make more restrictive procedures to follow when a child uses an inhaler. For example, a student may be asked to report to an adult when the inhaler is used or be sent to the health office to be assessed by the nurse.)