

Management of medicines in schools and early years settings

This briefing aims to support schools and early years settings to enable children with medical needs to take medicines in school when needed. It provides clarity regarding the national legislation and good practice guidance on the administration of medicines in schools across the UK.

Key recommendations

- Be aware of the legislation and national guidance on the provision of medicines to children in schools. See table below for country specific information for the administration of medicines in schools.
- Work with local government schools and early years support teams to ensure that schools and early years settings follow the requirements for the management of Controlled Drugs (CDs), Prescription Only Medicines (POMs) and over the counter (OTC) medicines. This is likely to include advice on school protocols and procedures, and staff training.
- Continue to promote self care to schools and early years settings.
- Ensure that local government school support teams across the UK are aware that a change in legislation on POMs allows schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, appropriate spacer devices and adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices without a prescription if they wish to do so, for use in emergencies.
- An appropriate healthcare professionals should undertake a medication review for children taking regular prescribed medication to ensure their doses are once or twice daily where possible so that all doses can be taken at home to reduce the need for medicines administration in school hours.

Table 1. Country specific information for the administration of medicines in schools

Country	Legislation	Guidance	AAIs	Salbutamol inhalers	Templates	Early years settings
England	Children and Families Act 2014, section 100	Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Local authority policies School policies	Regulation 8 Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 Regulation 22 Human Medicines (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2014	Regulation 27 Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014	Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school: templates	Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage
Wales		Supporting learners with healthcare needs Local authority policies School policies	Guidance on the use of emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools in Wales	Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools in Wales	Supporting learners with healthcare needs: templates	National minimum standards for regulated childcare
Northern Ireland		Supporting pupils with Medication Needs 2008 Local education authority policies School policies	Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) in schools in Northern Ireland	Guidance for the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools	Supporting pupils with medication needs - forms	Child minding and day care for children under age 12 standards
Scotland		Supporting Children and Young People with Healthcare Needs in Schools (2017) Local authority policies School policies	Annex B: Other condition specific information. The use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools	Annex A: guidance for education authorities, NHS boards and schools in Scotland on the emergency use of salbutamol inhalers		Management of medication in day care of children and childminding services

Additional resources available	Bulletin	https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-341-management-of-medicines-in-schools-and-early-years-settings/
	Tools	

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