Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings

Introduction to Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings

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Curriculum Objectives

1. Identify different types of medication, why medication is given, and how it is given
2. Improve medication storage, preparation, and administration techniques
3. Support good documentation
4. Recognize and respond to adverse reactions
5. Develop and implement appropriate policies
Disclaimer

• Curriculum provides education for personnel in the child care setting who give medication to children but are not licensed health care professionals
• Curriculum is not a substitute for written policy and professional medical guidance and not a certification of competency
• Each program must review state laws, regulations, and resources, and adapt accordingly
What is Covered

• Typical and routine medications for short-term use
• Medications taken on a regular basis for chronic health conditions
• Emergency medications (in general)
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What is Not Covered

• Special medications
• Clinical explanation of the conditions being treated
• Principles of caring for children with special needs
• Dietary issues such as restrictions
Module 1 Objectives

- Introduction and reasons to give medication
- ADA, IDEA, state regulations
- Responsibility Triangle
- Types of medication
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Why Give Medication in Child Care?
In general, why are medications given?

- Relieve symptoms
- Prevent illness
- Control or cure health programs
3 Main Reasons to Give Medication in Child Care

- Maintain health
- Allow a child who is not acutely ill to attend the program
- Comply with laws, regulations, and best practice
When Should Medication Be Given?

- At home by parents/guardians, if possible
- Minimize the number of doses given at a child care facility
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Standards and Regulations

State licensure regulations
• Seek to ensure basic health and safety parameters
• Are minimal standards for a licensed program to operate legally in specific state

Head Start Standards & Requirements
• Standard and requirements for Early Head Start and Head Start programs

Best Practice Standards
• Are optimal standards to strive towards
• Publications, such as Caring for Our Children, attempt to set best practice standards
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What does the ADA Law Say?

Centers have to make reasonable modifications to their policies and practices to integrate children, parents, and guardians with disabilities into their programs.

See: [https://www.ada.gov/childqanda.htm](https://www.ada.gov/childqanda.htm)

Department of Justice: 800.514.0301
How About Liability?

- Liability:
  - something for which one is liable
  - an obligation, responsibility, or debt
- Review liability insurance
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Responsibility Triangle

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver

Child

Child Care Provider

Health Care Professional
Parent or Guardian Responsibilities

- Regular checkups
- Up-to-date immunizations
- Communication:
  - Child’s symptoms & health status
  - Child care
  - Diagnosis & care
- Compliance with medication policies
Parent/Guardian Responsibilities, continued

- Seeing if medication can be given at home
- Providing:
  - properly labeled medication
  - appropriate measuring devices
- Promptly picking up their child
- Arranging for back-up care
- Working with child care providers
- Up-to-date emergency contact information
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Child Care Provider Responsibilities

- Periodic monitoring of health records
- Daily health checks
- Clear policies
- Good hygiene practices
- Promptly communicating
- Using available resources
- Obtaining training
Health Care Professional Responsibilities

- Complete child care health forms
- Discuss medication needs
- Adapt medication schedules
- Provide guidance and education
- Promote disease prevention
- Promote good health practices
- Be accessible to child care staff
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Child Care Health Consultants

- Provides consultation
- Technical assistance on health issues in child care
- Child Care Resource & Referral Agency [www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org)
Types of Medication

- Prescription (Rx), over-the-counter (OTC), and non-traditional
- Brand name and generic
- Oral, topical, and inhaled, etc.
Prescription Medication

• Can only be prescribed by an authorized health care professional
• Are dispensed by a pharmacist
• Are considered “controlled substances” if they can be dangerous or addictive
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OTC Medication

Can be purchased without a prescription
• Vitamins
• Sun screen
• Insect repellant
• Non-medicated diaper cream
• Homeopathic medication
• Herbal medication
Common OTC Medication

- Fever reducer or pain reliever
- Antihistamines
- Mild cortisone cream
- Cough syrups and cold remedies
- Nose drops
- Medications used for common gastrointestinal problems
- *Many OTC medications do not have dosing information for children under the age of 24 months*
Brand Name and Generic Medications

- Both prescription and OTC medications come as
  - Brand name
  - Generic
- Mistakes and confusion
  - Names that are difficult to remember and to say
  - Available under several names
  - Sound alike names
Forms of Medication: Oral

Tablets
- Coated and uncoated
- Chewable
- Scored

Capsules
- Swallow
- Sprinkle
Forms of Medication: Oral continued

Liquids
- Suspension
- Syrups
- Elixirs
Forms of Medication: Oral continued

- Sublingual
  - Placed under the tongue
- Melting strips and tablets
  - Absorbed directly in the mouth
- Gums and gels
Forms of Medication: Topical

- Drips: Eyes, ears, or nose
- Sprays: Nose or Throat
- Patches
Forms of Medication: Topical, continued

- Creams, Ointments, and Sprays for external application of medication for rash or skin problems
  - Prescription versus OTC
  - Preventive versus treatment
Forms of Medication: Inhalation

- *Inhalation*: Breathing or inhaling a drug into the respiratory tract
- Methods include:
  - *Inhaler*
  - *Nebulizer*
  - *Powders*
  - *Spray*
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Forms of Medication: Injection

- Epinephrine Injection
- Glucagon
- Insulin

These medications need special training and will not be covered in this program.
Forms of Medication: Suppository

• Suppositories are inserted into the rectum
• Need special training
• States vary, so check your local laws and regulations
PediaLink: Medication Administration in Early Care and Education Settings

For more information, an online course is available through PediaLink.

To sign up please visit: https://shop.aap.org/medication-administration-in-early-care-and-education-settings/
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Resources: State regulations

National Database of Child Care Licensing Regulations
https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/licensing
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More Resources


It is available online at: http://nrckids.org/

This book is available from the American Academy of Pediatrics
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Acknowledgements

- This curriculum has been developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The authors and contributors are expert authorities in the field of pediatrics.
- The recommendations in this curriculum do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.
- Listing of resources does not imply an endorsement by the AAP. The AAP is not responsible for the content of resources mentioned in this curriculum.
- Website addresses are as current as possible but may change at any time.
- Support for the Healthy Futures curricula has been provided through funding from Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.
Acknowledgements

- **Colorado**: Guidelines for Medication Administration: An Instructional Program for Training Unlicensed Personnel to Give Medication in Out-of-Home Child Care, Schools, and Camp Settings, Fifth Edition, 2008, developed by Healthy Child Care Colorado

- **New Jersey**: Medication Administration in Child Care developed by Healthy Child Care New Jersey

- **North Carolina**: Medication Administration in Child Care in North Carolina developed by the Quality Enhancement Project for Infants and Toddlers, with funding from the NC Division of Child Development to the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- **West Virginia**: Medication Administration: An Instructional Program for Teaching Non-Medical Personnel to Give Medication in Child Care Centers in West Virginia developed by Healthy Child Care West Virginia and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services
Acknowledgments

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