



Emergency Medication

My staff learned how to administer an Epinephrine Auto-Injectors during their First Aid training. Are they allowed to administer emergency medication to children?

The answer is No. In order for staff to administer emergency medications, your program must follow the regulations regarding emergency medications.

Can these incidents below happen in your program?

- Four-year-old died at school due to his peanut allergy despite its 'nut-free policy' and the teacher stabbed the EpiPen into her own hand instead of the child.
- Last month, 2 children died from asthma attacks after having mild symptoms.

There are numerous misconceptions regarding the administration of emergency medications. It has been reported that many programs are not in compliance with the regulations and the requirements that must be met.

Caring for children with allergies, and asthma that may require the administration of medication is a serious responsibility. You want to ensure the health and safety of children in your care, especially if they may require emergency medication.

Having the medication in the program will not help a child if you do not know why, where, when, or how to administer the medication.

You never know when it can happen to you.... Be prepared and save a child's life!

Did you know?

- Children attending child care and preschool with food allergies are at highest risk of an allergic reaction
- More than 60% of allergic reactions at school happen in the child care and preschool setting
- Every 3 minutes a food allergy reaction sends a person to the emergency room
- The number of people who have food allergies is growing, increasing 50% among children
- It now affects 1 in 13 children
- Attacks can quickly move from manageable to deadly
- Asthma Action Plans can prevent deaths from happening

Questions to think about:

- Would you know what to do if a child had a severe allergic reaction?
- Would you or your staff know how to recognize and respond to a child experiencing an allergic reaction or symptoms of an asthma episode?
- Would or your staff be able to comfortably and accurately administer an epinephrine auto-injector?



- Would you or your staff know how to properly administer asthma medications and to monitor the child for symptomatic relief?
- Is your program approved to administer medications or only administer emergency medications?

If your program is not approved to administer medication and you care for children with special health care needs that may require the administration of emergency medication, it is highly recommended that you attend the **Emergency Medication Administration Overview Training** or attending the **Medication Administration Training (MAT)**. You will learn vital information regarding the care of children with allergies and asthma that require emergency medication.

Benefits of attending a MAT Course:

- Earn 8 hours of training covering different topics areas
- Receive a 3 year MAT certificate
- \$100 Rebate is still available so the end cost for the training is \$50
- Learning important information about allergies & asthma
- Knowing when & how to correctly administer an epinephrine auto-injector & asthma medication

Benefits for attending Emergency Medication Administration Overview Training:

- Review information regarding the care of children with asthma and allergies
- Review the necessary/required parent permissions and health care provider instructions
- Receive direct instruction on how to administer emergency medication
- Obtain not only the necessary paperwork, but also useful resources that will be provided

OCFS and Medication Administration

In a previous Dear Director & Dear Provider Letters from NYS Office of Children and Family Services included information regarding emergency medication. The letter noted the following information:

Medication Administration Training (MAT)

The authorization to administer medication to children in care is a benefit to parents and children, and a marketing plus for providers. Parents search the website for child day care programs that offer this service, as many cannot leave work to administer medications. OCFS encourages child day care

programs to take advantage of the OCFS funds available for medication administration training and CCR&R health care consultant services in developing a health care plan for your program. Enclosed you will find a brochure explaining how to become MAT certified.

Medication Administration

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Member Agency – United Way of Westchester and Putnam, Inc.



Emergency Medication Emergency medications are limited to epinephrine auto injectors, diphenhydramine in combination with the auto injector, asthma inhalers and nebulizers. Regulation defines how and under what circumstances these specified emergency medications may be given to children in child care. Programs must refer to the regulations for a clear understanding of the rules regarding the administration of these emergency medications. This does not mean that other emergency medications don't exist, but the administration of any other emergency medications requires that the program become authorized to administer medication.

Health Care Plans

A program's approved Health Care Plan directs when and under what circumstances medications may be administered. Programs must follow their approved Plan and all Individual Health Care Plans on file.

Individual Health Care Plan Permissions and Updates

- Whenever changes are made in the plan of care for a child with special health care needs, or the program staff that provides that care, the child's individual Health Care Plan must be updated.
- Additionally, if the program staff that provides that care changes, the newly designated caregiver(s) must receive instruction directly from the child's parent or health care provider.

Contact your licensor or registrar if you have questions about your program's authorization to administer medications.

Click below to read – **MAT Brochure:**

http://res.pdp.albany.edu/ECETPWebsite/files/MAT/MAT_TRIFOLD_WEB.pdf

Contact the Health Services Department to learn more about the MAT Course, emergency medication, and the benefits of becoming approved to administer medication.