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Administration of Undesignated Asthma Medications in School (2024)

Standing Order and Protocol

Purpose: Undesignated asthma medication may treat potentially serious episodes of respiratory distress in children with known asthma as well as those without a prior history.

Scope: This standing order authorizes the administration of school-supplied undesignated asthma medication for severe respiratory distress at school or during school-sponsored activities. Undesignated asthma medication (i.e. albuterol) may be stocked at Illinois schools for this purpose (See School Code, [105 ILCS 5/22-30](#)).

Under this standing order, any school nurse or trained personnel as defined in above code may administer the undesignated asthma medication without the need for a direct order from an attending provider to an individual who is believed to be experiencing respiratory distress and who may benefit from its administration. This may occur prior to the arrival/availability of EMS. This may occur on school grounds before, during or after school activities including on a school bus.

Personnel, other than a school nurse, must complete annual [training](#)¹ on the use of this medication as provided by RESCUE Illinois program of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, St. Louis Chapter. Documentation of this training must be kept on file and available for audit.

Medication: This order refers to the use of a quick-relief medication approved by the US FDA (i.e., albuterol). Medication may be delivered through a metered-dose inhaler (MDI) with a reusable or disposable spacer.

Suggested stocked undesignated medication: Albuterol MDI (90 mcg/actuation) to be administered with a spacer. It is recommended that at least 2 undesignated albuterol MDIs are stocked at all times in the school. School size and number of students with asthma may make it appropriate for a school to have more than 2 MDIs stocked at all times.

It is recommended that at least 2 spacers are stocked at all times. Disposable cardboard spacers are inexpensive, effective and may be used for this purpose.

¹<https://aafastl.org/rescue-illinois-schools>

Albuterol MDIs may be cleaned according to manufacturer's instructions and allowed to fully dry before reuse. Disposable spacers are not to be reused for another student.

Contraindication: Hypersensitivity to albuterol or any component of the formulations

Communication: If undesignated asthma medication is administered under this standing order, trained personnel must also:

1. Communicate promptly (within the same day) with the family/guardian of the person receiving above treatment.
2. Report the use of undesignated asthma medication using the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\) Undesignated Asthma Medication Report Form](#)² within 3 days of administration of the medication.

Notes:

1. Parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the school should be notified at the start of each school year, or for new students, as they enroll, that their student may receive medication according to this standing order. The parent or guardian shall acknowledge the notification by signing it and returning it to the school.
2. A school also shall accept a written request from a parent or guardian stating that his or her student shall **not** be administered undesignated asthma medication under any circumstances. The school shall provide the name of any student whose parent or guardian submits notification to the school nurse and to any trained personnel.
3. School administration must provide required annual trainings as only trained personnel or a school nurse shall administer undesignated asthma medication. Certifications of successful completion of trainings must be maintained on file at the school. The names of trained personnel shall be provided to the school nurse and school administrator.
4. Each school is responsible for establishing and maintaining the stock of undesignated albuterol for the purposes of this standing order and tailor their emergency health protocol to include this use of undesignated albuterol.

²<http://web.isbe.net/cn/abb4l/AsthmaMedication>

Standing orders are as follows:

The School Nurse and/or trained personnel should:

Evaluate the person’s symptoms and history.

Assess the person’s airway, breathing, respiratory rate, work of breathing, pulse and color to confirm appropriateness of albuterol use.

Review contraindications and precautions as taught in their training.

Administer an initial dose of 2 puffs of the albuterol MDI using a spacer.

Reassess the person following administration of the albuterol.

Readminister, if necessary, as follows:

2 inhalations with spacer

May be repeated in 20 minutes for 1 additional dose (3 doses total)

Second and third dose may be increased to 4 inhalations if needed.

If no relief after 3 doses (with or without dose increase) or any worsening of symptoms even prior to completion of 3 doses, initiate transfer to medical facility.

Sameer Vohra

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3/3/2024

Physician’s Signature and License No. and NPI No.

Date

Sameer Vohra MD, JD, MA

Physician’s Name (Print)

Effective Date: 2/29/2024

Expiration Date: 2/28/2025