

Guidance on the Administration of Medicines Available Without a Prescription in Nurseries & Schools

The purpose of this document is to reassure staff in child care environments that medicines available without a prescription (also known as non-prescription or over the counter medicines) do not need to be prescribed by a General Practitioner or be labelled by a pharmacy before being administered by nursery/school staff.

On the 3rd April 2017 the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was updated and is still consistent with current national standards for day-care and child-minding and BMA Prescribing non-prescription (over the counter) medication in nurseries and schools.

This current Statutory Framework for the EYFS recommends the following:

- Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, for administering medicines. It must include systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medicines, and for keeping this information up-to-date. Training must be provided for staff where the administration of medicine requires medical or technical knowledge. Prescription medicines must not be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist (medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor).
- Medicine (both prescription and non-prescription) must only be administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer. Providers must keep a written record each time a medicine is administered to a child, and inform the child's parents and/or carers on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable.
- Non-prescription medication e.g. pain and fever relief or teething gel, may only be administered when there is a health reason to do so. A child under 16 should never be given medicines containing aspirin unless it has been prescribed for that child by a doctor. It is for the provider to arrange who should administer medicines, either on a voluntary basis or as part of a contract of employment.
- Medicines should be stored strictly in accordance with product instructions and in the original container in which dispensed. They should include prescriber's or manufacturer's instructions for administration.

Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group Medicines Management Committee and Haringey Council's Principal Health and Safety Advisor for Corporate and Schools, reviewed the framework and have jointly agreed this guidance.

This information is for General Practitioners that receive requests for non-prescription medicines needed for administration at nurseries or schools. A copy of this guidance should be sent to the nursery or school and can be shared with the parent/carers.

Reference

1. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf
2. <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2016/10/dfe-clarification-on-medicines-in-early-years-settings/>
3. <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/quality-first/manage-inappropriate-workload/prescribing-non-prescription-medication>