



Gaelscoil na Cruaiche

(Bunaithe: 1995. Príomhoide: Mairéad Ní Ruáin)

Cathair na Mart, Contae Mhaighéo

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Managing Chronic Illness in School Policy

The following four Guiding Statements set out our commitment to ensure the safety of students with chronic health conditions:

- This school ensures that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to students with chronic conditions.
- This school understands that certain chronic conditions are serious and can be potentially life threatening, particularly if ill-managed or misunderstood. Parents have a duty to inform the school of such a condition and provide the necessary medical equipment and medication to respond to emergencies.
- This school has clear guidance on the administration and storage of medication and necessary equipment at school.
- Staff understand the common chronic health conditions that affect students at this school. Staff receive appropriate training on chronic conditions and what to do in an emergency.

This school understands that certain chronic conditions are serious and can be potentially life threatening, particularly if ill managed or misunderstood. Parents have a duty to inform the school of such a condition and provide the necessary medical equipment to respond to emergencies.

- All parents are informed and reminded about this school's 'Managing Chronic Health Conditions' Guidelines when their child is enrolled as a new student
- School staff are informed and regularly reminded about the 'Managing Chronic Health Conditions' guidelines.
- The responsibilities of school staff and parents of students with a chronic condition are set out in a written format and clearly understood by all parties.
- Parents of students at this school are regularly reminded to update their child's health related issues such as change of medication etc.
- Staff at this school use opportunities such as teacher-parent meetings to check that information held by the school on a student's condition is accurate and up to date.
- Inform the appropriate staff and substitute/temporary teachers about the individual needs of a student with a chronic condition in their care.

Administration and Emergency Medication

This school has clear guidance on the administration and storage of medication and necessary equipment at school. This school understands the importance of medication being taken as prescribed and the need for safe storage of medication at school.

- Staff are aware that there is no legal or contractual duty for a member of staff to administer medication or supervise a student taking medication. However, any teacher who is willing and confident to administer medication to a student can do so under controlled guidelines. This teacher will need to have the permission of the Board of Management, have the written approval of parents and be fully trained in procedures. (cf. Statement D)
- Parents of students at this school understand that if their child's medication changes or is discontinued, they should notify the school immediately in writing to update their child's condition
- Staff or other parents attending tours/off site activities are made aware of any students with chronic conditions on the visit. They will receive information about the type of condition, what to do in an emergency and any other additional support necessary, including any additional medication or equipment needed.

SAFE STORAGE – EMERGENCY MEDICATION

- Emergency medication is readily available at all times during the school day or at off-site activities.
- Staff members know where emergency medication is stored.
- Staff ensure that medication is only accessible to those for whom it is prescribed.
- Staff at this school understand their duty of care to students in the event of an emergency, i.e. school staff are required under common law duty of care to act like any reasonably prudent parent and look to implement the relevant procedures.
- All staff receive training and know what to do in an emergency by following the school's Emergency Plan for each condition.

Responsibilities of Board of Management

ASTHMA

The Board of Management has responsibility to:

- Ensure students with severe asthma are identified during the registration process
- Promote a supportive learning environment for students with severe asthma
- Develop school guidelines for asthma management during school and school outings
- Arrange for asthma management training for all staff members, if deemed necessary
- Include asthma awareness as part of SPHE
- Support and implement the plan agreed for storage of asthma medication
- Support and facilitate ongoing communication between parents/guardians of students with asthma and school staff

- Have sufficient knowledge of asthma to make informed decisions regarding the safety of students
- Allocate sufficient resources to manage students with this chronic condition

DIABETES

The Board of Management has responsibility to:

- Ensure students with diabetes are identified during the registration process
- Promote a supportive learning environment for students with diabetes
- Develop school guidelines for diabetes management during school and school outing
- Ensure that all school-related staff members who teach or supervise a student with diabetes are alerted.
- Include diabetes awareness as part of SPHE
- Support and facilitate ongoing communication between parents/guardians of students with diabetes and school staff
- Have sufficient knowledge of diabetes to make informed decisions regarding the safety of students
- Allocate sufficient resources to manage students with this chronic condition

EPILEPSY

The Board of Management has responsibility to:

- Ensure students with epilepsy are identified during the registration process
- Promote a supportive learning environment for students with epilepsy. This includes understanding of the potential cognitive impacts of epilepsy and its treatment on learning. Also, it includes extending support to the student to minimise disruption to learning from the seizures and from missed schooling
- Develop school guidelines for epilepsy management during school and school outing
- Arrange for epilepsy management training for staff, if deemed necessary
- Ensure that all school-related staff members who teach or supervise a student with epilepsy are alerted
- This includes substitute personnel
- Include epilepsy awareness as part of SPHE
- Support and implement the plan agreed for storage of epilepsy medication
- Support and facilitate ongoing communication between parents/guardians of students with epilepsy and school staff
- Have sufficient knowledge of epilepsy to make informed decisions regarding the safety of students
- Allocate sufficient resources to manage students with this chronic condition

ANAPHYLAXIS

The Board of Management has responsibility to:

- Ensure students at risk of anaphylaxis are identified during the registration process
- Promote a supportive learning environment for students with severe allergies
- Develop school guidelines for allergy management during school and school outings
- Alert our school food suppliers regarding specific students at risk of anaphylaxis to prevent cross contamination
- Arrange anaphylaxis training for staff members, if deemed necessary

- Ensure that all school-related staff members who teach or supervise a student with severe allergies are alerted. Ensure that they are familiar with the Emergency Anaphylaxis Plan. This includes substitute personnel
- Include allergy awareness as part of SPHE
- Support and implement the plan agreed for storage of epilepsy medication. Adrenaline must always be easily accessible. Ideally a spare syringe should be kept in the Emergency Medication Cabinet
- Support and facilitate ongoing communication between parents/guardians of students with severe allergies and school staff
- Have sufficient knowledge of anaphylaxis to make informed decisions regarding the safety of students

Responsibilities of Teachers (see emergency action plan)

ASTHMA:

- Learn about asthma and attend asthma management training if deemed necessary
- Be familiar with any students in the school who suffer from this chronic condition
- Be prepared to recognise the triggers, and the signs and symptoms of an asthma attack.
- Treat the student with asthma the same as other students except when meeting medical needs
- Promote inclusion of the student in all school activities that are appropriate and safe to participate in, including sports, extracurricular activities and school trips
- Maintain effective communication with parents and Participate in the Healthcare Team Meeting with the parent(s), if deemed necessary.
- Ensure that all medication is stored in the Emergency Medication Cabinet, and that it is within date (SHC only)
- Bring all relevant and necessary medication with them on every School Trip or Outing, including Sports Day

DIABETES:

- Learn about diabetes and attend diabetes management training if deemed necessary
- Be familiar with any students in the school who suffer from this chronic condition. Be prepared to recognise the triggers, and the signs and symptoms of both hypo- and hyperglycaemia. Know what to do in an emergency
- Treat the student with diabetes the same as other students except when meeting medical needs. Promote inclusion of the student in all school activities that are appropriate and safe to participate in
- Maintain effective communication with parents
- Provide a supportive environment for the student to manage their diabetes effectively and safely at school. This may include unrestricted access to the bathroom, drinking water, snacks, blood glucose monitoring and taking insulin
- Ensure that the student has the right to privacy when injecting insulin, adequate time for blood glucose testing and eating snacks/meals if needed

- Participate in the Healthcare Team Meeting with the parent(s), if deemed necessary. This should ideally take place at the start of the school year or when the student is newly diagnosed. (Healthcare Team only)

Epilepsy:

- Learn about epilepsy and attend Epilepsy management training if deemed necessary
- Be familiar with any students in the school who suffer from this chronic condition.
- Be prepared to recognize the triggers, and the signs and symptoms of a seizure. Know what to do in an emergency
- Treat the student with epilepsy the same as other students except when meeting medical needs. However, be aware of the potential impact of seizures and medication on a student's memory and overall school performance
- Promote inclusion of the student in all school activities that are appropriate and safe to participate in, including sports, extracurricular activities and school trips
- Ensure that the student has the right to privacy when recovering from a seizure if this is needed. However, the student should be checked on, at regular intervals
- Maintain effective communication with parents if their child has become unwell at school
- Bring all relevant and necessary medication with them on every School Trip or Outing, including Sports Day; or alternatively ensure that the student has such medication with them

ANAPHYLAXIS:

- Teachers of a student with a severe allergy have responsibility to:
- Learn about severe allergies and anaphylaxis and attend anaphylaxis management training if deemed necessary
- Be familiar with any students in the school who suffer from this chronic condition
- Be prepared to recognise allergic triggers that may cause a student to experience an anaphylactic reaction and, if applicable, minimise the risk for the student by reviewing class activities, supplies and materials to ensure they are allergen free
- Know what to do in an emergency
- Treat the student with anaphylaxis the same as other students except when meeting medical need
- Promote inclusion of the student in all school activities that are appropriate and safe to participate in, including sports, extracurricular activities and school trips in accordance with the guidance of the Healthcare Team
- Maintain effective communication with parent
- Bring all relevant and necessary medication with them on every School Trip or Outing, including Sports Day; or alternatively ensure that the student has such medication with them

Responsibilities of Parents

Asthma:

The parents/guardians of a student with diabetes have responsibility to:

- Inform the school that their child has asthma
- Provide an up-to-date Healthcare Plan for their child, with accurate emergency contact details and specific information about their son's asthma
- Agree that the student will take part in all school activities, e.g. swimming, outings and extracurricular activities that are safe and appropriate for them to do. If there are concerns as to safety of a specific activity, it is best to be guided by the student's GP or specialist
- Provide the school with the necessary equipment to treat an asthma attack: inhaler medications, spacer devices
- Ensure their child's inhalers and spacers and any spare medication are labelled with their son's full name
- Ensure all necessary asthma medication is within the expiry date, and replenish supplies as needed
- Bring medication home from school on the last day of each academic year and return it to the school on the first day of each new academic year.

DIABETES:

The parents/guardians of a student with diabetes have responsibility to:

- Inform the school that their child has diabetes
- Develop a written Healthcare Plan for their child with accurate emergency contact details, and specific information about their child's diabetes. If necessary, provide Information about their child 's meal/snack schedule, where it does not fit into the daily school timetable.
- Include an Emergency Diabetes Plan outlining what to do in the case of hypo- or hyperglycaemia, and stating conditions under which an ambulance is to be called
- Participate in the Healthcare Team Meeting, if deemed necessary
- Agree that the student will take part in all school activities, e.g. swimming, outings and extracurricular activities that are safe and appropriate for them to do. If there are concerns as to safety of a specific activity, it is best to be guided by the student's GP or specialist
- Provide the school with the necessary equipment such as a hypo kit* and replenish supplies as needed
- Ensure their child's insulin and glucose meter and any spare medication are labelled with his full name
- Ensure insulin and all necessary equipment is within the expiry date, and replenish supplies as needed
- Provide a Sharps Box for any used syringes
- Bring medication home from school on the last day of each academic year and return it to the school on the first day of each new academic year
- Inform of any changes in their child's health status

*The hypo kit might have a blood glucose meter, testing strips, finger pricking device with lancets, Lucozade, glucose sweets, cereal bar, biscuits, Glucogel and Glucagon injection.

EPILEPSY:

- The parents/guardians of a student with epilepsy have responsibility to:
- Inform the school that their child has epilepsy
- Provide an up-to-date and accurate emergency contact details, and have specific information about their child's epilepsy, including seizure type, pattern, triggers, management and drug regime.
- Develop an Emergency Epilepsy Plan, outlining what to do in the case of an epileptic fit, and stating conditions under which an ambulance is to be called
- Participate in the Healthcare Team Meeting, if deemed necessary
- Agree that the student will take part in all school activities, e.g. swimming, outings and extracurricular activities that are safe and appropriate for them to do. If there are concerns as to safety of a specific activity it is best to be guided by the student's neurology team.
- Provide the school with emergency medication. A ventilated pillow may be supplied in the case of a student who may need to sleep after a seizure
- Ensure their child's medication and any spare medication provided is labelled with his/her full name
- Ensure all medication is within the expiry date, and replenish supplies as needed
- Bring all medication home from school on the last day of each academic year and return it to the school on the first day of each new academic year
- Inform of any changes in their child's health status

ANAPHYLAXIS:

The parents/guardians of a student with severe allergies have responsibility to:

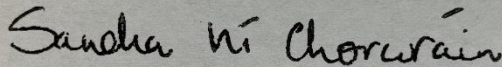
- Inform the school that their child has a severe allergy
- Provide an up-to-date Healthcare Plan for their child, which will include accurate emergency contact details, and have specific information about their child's allergy / allergies
- Develop an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan for their child, outlining what to do in case of a severe allergic reaction, and stating conditions under which an ambulance is to be called
- Participate in the Healthcare Team Meeting, if deemed necessary
- Agree that the student will take part in all school activities, e.g. swimming, outings and extracurricular activities that are safe and appropriate for them to do. If there are concerns as to safety of a specific activity, it is best to be guided by the student's GP or specialist
- Provide their child with a labelled auto injector
- Provide the school with a spare auto injector, which should be labelled and will be kept in the Emergency Medication Cabinet
- Ensure with their doctor, that the adrenaline injector dose prescribed is adequate, as their child matures
- Ensure all medication is within the expiry date, and replenish supplies as needed
- Provide a Sharps Box for any used syringes

- Bring all medication home from school on the last day of each academic year and return it to the school on the first day of each new academic year.
- Inform any changes in their child's health status

Ratification & Review:

This policy was ratified at a Board of Management meeting on 25/01/2022

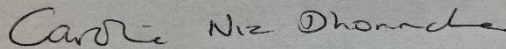
It will be reviewed as the need arises.



Signature:

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25/01/2022



Signature:

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 25/01/2022