

28 December 2017

To: all Cambridgeshire schools

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Dear Headteacher

Re: Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medicines for Children

As a way of using NHS resources more appropriately, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG is implementing a self-care policy for minor health problems. This encourages patients to access advice from health professionals such as pharmacists and where appropriate purchase over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, such as paracetamol, and hay fever remedies rather than obtaining a prescription from their GP surgery.

This means that some medicines that schools have been willing to administer because they have been accompanied by a prescription will now be obtained by parents over-the-counter without a prescription. Where this is the case we would like to enlist your support to continue to administer these medicines without a prescription, which we believe you are able to do under the statutory guidance that you will have drawn on when you established your school's policy. For example, we have been contacted by a number of GP practices to inform us about parents making GP appointments to seek a prescription for an OTC medication at the request of their school so that it can be administered by staff in schools or nurseries; this is not necessary.

To support teachers who volunteer to administer medicines, the doctors' professional body the British Medical Association has advised that "non-prescription (OTC) medication does not need a GP signature / authorisation in order for the school/nursery/childminder to give it." We also believe the Department for Education in "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England (spring 2017)" and the "Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage. Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five (April 2017)" supports the administration of non-prescription medicines by teachers in schools following prior written permission by the child's parent/carer.

If you would require any support in updating your school medicine policy to incorporate administration of non-prescription medicines or have any further questions please contact the Medicines Optimisation Team at CAPCCG.prescribingpartnership@nhs.net .

Yours sincerely

Medicines Optimisation Team

Supporting References:

- Prescribing non-prescription (over the counter) medication in nurseries and schools. British Medical Association. 28 July 2017. <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/quality-first/manage-inappropriate-workload/prescribing-non-prescription-medication>
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England (spring 2017)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484418/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf (accessed 31/05/17)
- Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage. Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five (April 2017)
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS STATUTORY FRAMEWORK 2017.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf) (accessed 31/05/17)