

Managing Chronic Health Conditions

A. St. Patrick's NS, Ballaghlea ensures that the whole school environment is inclusive and favourable to students with a chronic condition.

This includes the physical environment, as well as social, sporting and educational activities.

1. This school ensures that students with chronic conditions can participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum and does its best to provide appropriate adjustments and extra support as needed.

2. If a student is missing a lot of school time, has limited concentration or is frequently tired, all teachers at this school understand that this may be due to a chronic condition.

3. Staff use opportunities such as social, personal and health education lessons to raise awareness of chronic conditions amongst students and to create a positive social environment.

4. Staff at this school are aware of the potential social problems that students with chronic conditions may experience. Staff use this knowledge to prevent and deal with problems in accordance with the school's anti-bullying and behaviour policies.

5. This school ensures all teachers and external sports coaches make appropriate adjustments to sports, games and other activities to make physical activity accessible to all students. 63. Teachers and external sports coaches are aware of/will be made aware of students in their care who have been advised to avoid or to take special precautions with particular activities.

6. This school ensures all teachers and sports coaches are aware of the potential triggers for a student's condition(s) when exercising and how to minimise these triggers.

7. Risk assessments are carried out by this school prior to any out-of-school visit and chronic conditions are considered during this process. Factors the school considers include: how all students will be able to access the activities proposed, how routine and emergency medication will be stored and administered and where help can be obtained in an emergency.

B. 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. This school has a clear communication plan for staff and parents* to ensure the safety of all students with a chronic condition.

1. All parents are informed and reminded about this school's 'Managing Chronic Health Conditions' guidelines:

- By including the guiding statement in the school's prospectus and communicating this to new parents
- When their child is enrolled as a new student
- Via the school's website

2. Parents of children with a chronic condition are informed and reminded about this school's 'Managing Chronic Health Conditions' guidelines:

- At the start of the school year when communication is sent out about the Healthcare Plan

3. School staff are informed and regularly reminded about the 'Managing Chronic Health Conditions' guidelines:

- Through updates with a copy for all staff including substitute/temporary teachers and coaches.
 - At scheduled chronic conditions training sessions. (1st staff meeting at the beginning of new school year).
 - Through key principles of the school guidelines being displayed in several prominent staff areas at school
4. Students are informed and regularly reminded about the 'Managing Chronic Health Conditions' guidelines in social, personal and health education (SPHE) classes.
 5. 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 in the Healthcare Plan and Emergency Plan for each condition.
 6. Healthcare Plans are used to create a centralised register of students with chronic medical conditions. An identified member of staff has responsibility for the register at this school (Mrs. Farrell).

ONGOING COMMUNICATION AND REVIEW OF HEALTHCARE PLANS

1. Parents of students at this school are regularly reminded to update their child's Healthcare Plan with changes to things such as their symptoms (getting better or worse) or their medication.

STORAGE AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE PLANS

1. Parents of students at this school are provided with a copy of the student's current agreed Healthcare Plan.
2. Healthcare Plans are kept in a secure central location at school.
3. All members of staff who work with students have access to the Healthcare Plans of students in their care.
4. The school ensures that substitute/temporary teachers are made aware of (and have access to) the Healthcare Plans of students in their care.
5. This school seeks permission from parents to allow the Healthcare Plan to be sent ahead to emergency care staff should an emergency happen during school hours or at a school activity outside the normal school day. This permission is included on the Healthcare Plan.

USE OF HEALTHCARE PLANS

Healthcare Plans are used by this school to:

- Inform the appropriate staff and substitute/temporary teachers about the individual needs of a student with a chronic condition in their care
- Remind students with chronic conditions to take their medication when they need to and if appropriate, remind them to keep their emergency medication with them at all times
- Identify common or important individual triggers for students with chronic conditions at school that bring on symptoms and can cause emergencies. This school uses this information to help reduce the impact of common triggers

ADMINISTRATION – EMERGENCY MEDICATION

1. All students at this school with chronic conditions have access to their emergency medication at all times.
2. This school understands the importance of medication being taken as prescribed.
3. 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.
4. 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 Healthcare Plan. The school confirms the changes are incorporated into the plan.
5. 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.
6. If a student misuses medication, either their own or another student's, their parents are informed as soon as possible. These students are subject to the school's usual disciplinary procedures.

SAFE STORAGE – EMERGENCY MEDICATION / General Medication

1. Emergency medication / General Medication is readily available at all times during the school day or at off-site activities. For children epi-pens, one is kept in the staff room First Aid press and the other epi-pen (mobile) is on the top shelf inside the office door. This mobile epi-pen goes everywhere with the child.
2. Staff members know where emergency medication/ General Medication is stored.
3. Where healthcare professionals and parents advise the school that the student is not yet able or old enough to self manage and carry their own emergency medication, this student's teacher knows exactly where and how to access their emergency medication.
4. Staff ensures that medication is only accessible to those for whom it is prescribed.
5. There is an identified member of staff who ensures the correct storage of medication at school (Mrs. Farrell).
6. The identified member of staff, along with the parents of students with chronic conditions, ensure that all emergency and non-emergency medication brought in to school is clearly labelled with the student's name, the name and dose of the medication and the frequency of dose. This includes all medication that students carry themselves.
7. Medication is stored in accordance with instructions, paying particular note to temperature.
8. Some medication for students at this school may need to be refrigerated. All refrigerated medication is stored in an airtight container and is clearly labelled with the student's name.
9. All medication is sent home with parents at the end of the each term. Medication is not stored at school during holiday periods.

10. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure new and in date medication comes into school on the first day of each new term.

SAFE DISPOSAL

1. Parents at this school are asked to ensure that an adult collects out-of-date medication.
2. Sharps boxes are used for the disposal of needles. (A sharps box is a small yellow plastic container with a protective lid that is used for the disposal of used needles). Parents must provide the school with a sharps box. All sharps boxes in this school are stored in a safe place and this can be a locked cupboard when not in use unless alternative safe and secure arrangements are put in place on a case- by-case basis.
3. If a sharps box is needed on an off-site or residential visit, a named member of staff is responsible for its safe storage and returns it to school or the student's parents.
4. Collection and disposal of sharps boxes is arranged by the parents.
5. Used Adrenalin auto injectors (Anapens) must be given to the ambulance crew.

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.

1. All staff at this school are aware of the most common chronic conditions.
2. Staff at this school understand their duty of care to students in the event of an emergency. In an emergency situation, school staff are required under common law duty of care to act like any reasonably prudent parent and look to implement the relevant Emergency Plan.
3. The staff who work with students who have a chronic condition at this school receive training and know what to do in an emergency by following the school's Emergency Plan for each condition.
4. Action for staff to take in an emergency for the most common conditions at this school is displayed in prominent locations for all staff.

Note:

All staff in this school including S.N.A. and secretary, (with the exception of Mrs. O'Grady resource teacher) attended a First Aid evening (27/10/2016) where "management of anaphylaxis" was one of the modules.

5/12/16

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