Navigating Statutes for Students with Asthma

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Navigating Statutes for Students with Asthma Presentation Overview

- Asthma’s impact on youth
- National policies and Illinois’ performance
- School Code: Self-administration and self-carry of asthma medication
- Suggested strategies for schools
- Future asthma policy agenda
- Questions, comments and resources
Asthma’s National Impact on Youth

Asthma is common.

1 in 11 children have asthma

Asthma is deadly.

1 in 5 children with asthma went to an emergency department for asthma-related care in 2009.
Asthma keeps children out of school

- In 2008, asthma caused 10.5 million missed days of school

- Nearly 1 in 2 children miss at least 1 day of school each year because of their asthma.

Asthma’s Impact on the Nation, Data from the CDC Asthma Control Program
Youth with Ever Asthma in Illinois

13.6%

The following groups of children in Illinois ever been told they have asthma:

- Female: 12.4%
- Male: 14.6%
- 0-4 years: 8.6%
- 5-9 years: 16.1%
- 10-14 years: 14.4%
- 15-17 years: 15.9%
- Hispanic: 14.2%
- Other NH: 10.8%
- White-NH: 25.1%
- Black-NH: 10.9%

Asthma’s Impact on Youth in Illinois

54.7% (1 in 2) children with asthma missed at least 1 DAY OF SCHOOL in the past 12 months due to their asthma.

76.5% of children do not have their asthma under control.

Asthma’s Impact On School Performance

Poorly controlled asthma has a negative impact on school performance in both academic achievement and physical education.
How does asthma that is not well controlled impact student learning?

- Fatigue – students up at night with coughing, wheezing and other symptoms are tired in the morning
- Absenteeism related to asthma episodes, health care appointments, and hospitalization
- Missed class time due to frequent school health office visits

Asthma Basics for Schools Presentation developed by NAEPP
What to expect from effective asthma management in school settings

• A supportive learning environment for students with asthma
• Reduced absences
• Reduced disruption in the classroom
• Appropriate emergency care
• Full student participation in physical activities

Managing Asthma: A Guide for Schools from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program
Defining the policy

- Self-administration means a pupil’s discretionary use of his/her prescribed asthma medication
- Self-carry means allowing the student to carry their quick relief medication
Who needs to comply with the School Code?

- All schools in Illinois, public and private, fall under this state policy
- There are no age restrictions to the policy
- Permission is effective for the school year for which it is granted
- Permission needs to be renewed annually
The policy covers school age children:

- While in school
- While at a school-sponsored activity
- While under the supervision of school personnel
- Before or after normal school activities, such as while in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property
Illinois School Code
105 ILCS 5/22-30

• Physician signature is no longer required and cannot be required on the forms
• Parent/guardian must provide the school written authorization for self-administration and/or self-carry - and -
  – Parent must provide the school with the following:
    • Prescription label with name of medication;
    • Prescribed dosage and;
    • The times and circumstances under which the medication is to be given.
Why are 504 plans important for students with asthma?

• It is important to document all students with chronic disease
• Until we define the need it will not be recognized
• Simple accommodations may help these students succeed
Recommended 504 Accommodations

- Nursing consultation time
- Second set of books
- Homework buddy system
- Individual lockers
- No fur bearing pets in classroom
- Written Asthma Action Plan
National Policy Standards

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America’s (AAFA) State Honor Roll

- Annual research project
- Identifies states with most comprehensive policies supporting students with asthma (and allergy) in schools
By collaborating on policy development and implementation, we can:

• Uniformly protect students with chronic illness across the state, and

• Save lives
Example:
- A policy of stocking epi-pens in Chicago Public Schools leads to 38 doses within a 1-year period
- Possibly life-saving doses
- 55% of these reactions were 1st time incidents
Emergency Management Protocol

- This is one of AAFA’s policy standards mentioned earlier in the presentation
- Illinois does not have one currently
- We are exploring this for Illinois
- Would clearly outline what school staff can and should do for an asthma emergency
- Would essentially provide an Asthma Action Plan for students that don’t have one
**Asthma FIRST AID**

*Steps to Manage an Asthma Episode*

1. **Remain Calm**
   - Speak calmly at all times
   - Have person stop all activities
   - Help person remain calm and in an upright position
   - Stay with the person at all times

2. **Use Inhaler**
   - Have person use his or her quick relief asthma medication
   - If no medication is available, call 911

3. **Alert Staff**
   - Notify emergency/medical staff of situation
   - Keep a close watch to make sure symptoms are not getting worse

**When to Call 911**

If you are unsure whether emergency help is needed, call 911 immediately

- Breathing is so difficult that the person has trouble walking or talking
- Lips or nails look pale, blue, or gray
- Breathing does not improve within 15 minutes of the first dose/puff of medication or becomes worse
- No quick relief medication is available

**SIGNS OF AN ASTHMA EPISODE:**

- Shortness of Breath
- Rapid Breathing
- Coughing
- Wheezing (whistling sound)
- Chest Tightness
  (child may complain of a stomach ache)
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Questions and Comments

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - links to resources for school personnel planning or maintaining an asthma management program

http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/schools.html
This Power Point presentation will be posted on the Chicago Asthma Consortium website at [www.chicagoasthma.org](http://www.chicagoasthma.org)