

## **Student Policy #210.2**

### **Possession and Use of Asthma Inhaler/EpiPen**

#### **Purpose:**

- The SusQ-Cyber Charter School (“Charter School”) recognizes the need for emergency medical treatment of students with asthma and severe allergies. Therefore, this policy addresses the issue of students carrying an inhaler and/or EpiPen to self-medicate in an emergency situation.
- The choice is always for medical professionals to administer treatment, however, there is always the circumstance when it may be necessary for the student to self-administer his/her medication during an emergency. In all cases, the school nurse is the best source of direction and support for students in these situations.

#### **Definitions:**

- **Asthma inhaler** shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of prescribed medication to prevent or treat an acute asthma attack.
- **EpiPen** shall mean a prescribed device used for self-administration of short-acting, metered doses of medication to treat an acute allergic reaction.
- **Self-administration** shall mean a student’s use of medication in accordance with a prescription or written instructions from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

#### **Guidelines:**

A student that desires to possess and self-administer a prescribed asthma inhaler or EpiPen must:

- Provide to the school nurse a physician’s order stating that the student is capable to self-administer the inhaler at school, along with the name of the medication, the dosage, the times when the medication is to be taken and the diagnosis or reason the medicine is needed unless the reason should remain confidential.
- Written permission from guardian/parent that the school complies with the order of the physician. The note shall include a statement relieving the school entity or any school employee of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication when it is parent-authorized and acknowledging that the school entity bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken.
- Asthma inhalers and EpiPens can be sent with a responsible individual, such as a parent/guardian, teacher, or responsible student, on field trips and school activities.
- The student shall be made aware that the asthma inhaler and EpiPen are intended for his/her use only and may not be shared with other students.
- The student shall notify the school nurse or designee immediately following use of an EpiPen.
- Violations of this policy by a student shall result in immediate confiscation of the asthma inhaler and medication or EpiPen and loss of privileges.
- The Charter School reserves the right to require a statement from the physician (MD or DO)/PA-C/CRNP or designee for the continued use of a medication beyond the specified time period. Permission for possession and use of an asthma inhaler or EpiPen by a student shall be effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year.

- A student whose parent/guardian completes the written requirements for the student to possess an asthma inhaler or EpiPen and self-administer the prescribed medication in the school setting shall demonstrate to the school nurse the capability for self-administration and responsible behavior in use of the medication.
- To self-administer medication, the student must be able to:
  - Respond to and visually recognize his/her name.
  - Identify his/her medication.
  - Recognize signs and symptoms requiring medication use.
  - Demonstrate the proper technique for self-administering medication.
  - Agree to inform health services if the EpiPen was used at a school event.
  - Demonstrate a responsible and cooperative attitude in all aspects of self-administration.
- The CEO or designee, in conjunction with the school nurse, shall develop procedures for student possession of asthma inhalers and EpiPens and self-administration of prescribed medication.
- The Charter School shall annually inform staff, students and parents/guardians about the policy and procedures governing student possession and use of asthma inhalers and EpiPens.

**Delegation of Responsibility:**

The CEO shall ensure that students are informed of these guidelines and any additional regulations, which may be needed to enforce these guidelines, and the parent shall discuss these issues with the school nurse.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENT.