



Ocean View College B-12

Medication Management Policy

Student's health and wellbeing are tied to their ability to learn. Ocean View College aims to ensure the best educational all children and students by providing support to their health and wellbeing needs.

This policy is developed in line with DECD and SA Government healthcare in education guidelines 'Health support planning in education and children's service (DECD 2001)'

Requests for storage and supervision of medication

Medication will only be stored and supervised if it has been prescribed by a doctor for the individual child or student, for the period of time specified. This ensures medication is medically warranted. Analgesics and other medications which can be purchased over the counter without a prescription should also be prescribed if staff members are to be asked to supervise their use.

A medication authority must be provided by the prescribing doctor to assist us with safe supervision of medication. This is requested for over the counter medication as well as prescription-only medication. If a medication authority is not provided, staff require clear written instructions from the parent or guardian. In all cases the instructions must match those on the pharmacy label. The only exception is asthma medication included in a first aid kit for use in a standard first aid procedure.

Storage of medication

Ocean View College will only accept and agree to supervise medication required during school hours (for example, medication required three times a day is generally not required during a school day: it can be taken before and after school, and before bed). This is to minimise the quantity of medication held on site.

Medications will be stored in Sub-School Offices strictly in accordance with product instructions (paying particular note to temperature) and in the original container in which dispensed. Families can supply thermal carry packs to maintain safe temperature storage and for ease of transport on excursions.

Storage in Sub-School Offices is secure with clear labelling and access is limited to the staff responsible for medication storage and supervision.

Safe storage of medication at Ocean view College, as a minimum standard, requires that the medication is:

- prescribed by a doctor
- provided by the parent or guardian
- within the expiry date of the product delivered to staff as a daily supply (or a week's supply at the most, except in long-term continuous care arrangements). Families can organise a second labelled container from the pharmacy for safe storage at home
- provided with written instructions from the parent, guardian or doctor (via a health care plan). These instructions must match those printed on the product packaging.

Supervision of medication

Ocean view College office staff are generally trained to supervise oral and measured dose inhaled medication. They are not trained, and so cannot be expected, to routinely administer medication taken by other routes, for example eye and ear drops and ointments (Please organise alternative care arrangements for these types of medications).

Everyone supervising medication will ensure that:

- the right child
- has the right medication
- and the right dose
- by the right route (for example, oral or inhaled)
- at the right time, and
- will record what is observed, time and date etc.

To respect dignity, privacy, comfort and safety, medications will only be administered or overseen by staff in the office areas.

A medication authority must be provided by the prescribing doctor to assist us with safe supervision of medication. This is requested for over the counter medication as well as prescription-only medication. A medical authority form can be obtained from each sub-school office.

If a medication authority is not provided, staff require clear written instructions from the parent or guardian giving school staff to supervise and/or administer medications. In all cases the instructions must match those on the pharmacy label. The only exception is asthma medication included in a first aid kit for use in a standard first aid procedure.

A child or student is not to take his or her first dose of a new medication at school: the child or students first dose should be supervised by the family or health professional in case of an allergic reaction.

Self-management of medication

(Students over 16 only with parental or doctor consent for benign medications such as asthma puffers etc.)

Staff will store and supervise medication for preschool children and junior primary aged students. We also require that older students' medication is stored securely by staff unless it is a benign medication such as asthma puffers and immediate access is required by the children or students for their safety.

Older students can often, on the advice of their parent or guardian and doctor, carry and manage their own medication. This is permissible only where:

- the school is informed prior of the medication and its necessity
- the medication does not have special storage requirements such as refrigeration
- The school is satisfied that the practice does not create a situation where there is any potential unsafe access to the medication by other children or students.

Procedure for medication carried and self-managed by older students include the following:

- Medication be in the original pharmacy-labelled container
- Limit to quantity brought to school (daily requirement only)
- Students/Parents understand that if staff members observe students self-medicating, they can sensitively and privately ask to see the original pharmacy container and check with the parent or guardian
- A responsibility of all people on site to respect others' medication and to keep one's own medication secure to minimise risk to others.
- Ocean View College reserves the right to stop students storing their own medication, should there be any concern about the safety of the individual or others on the site

Aerosol Sprays

(deodorants, body sprays, hair sprays and perfume sprays)

Ocean View College is a **NO AEROSOL SCHOOL**. Some College students and community members suffer severe allergies to aerosol sprays or perfumes that can act as a trigger to an (often) serious asthma attack, or bring on a severe migraine or allergy in a sensitive individual.

Aerosol sprays are emitted into the air in a fine mist which can then spread a long way. The chemicals and strong scents in this mist can trigger a reaction when inhaled. Due to the amount of time this mist can stay airborne and the distance it can travel, even spraying some distance away from a person can lead to a problem.

If an aerosol has been used anywhere in a student's vicinity, the reaction can be sufficiently serious to put a student into anaphylactic shock or induce severe breathing difficulties. This can be a life threatening situation, resulting in the student being transported to hospital in an ambulance.

- Students are encouraged to follow hygiene procedures of applying deodorant at home after showering: a good deodorant will last all day if applied to clean skin before dressing.
- Roll-on and stick deodorants may be used at school.

* Ocean View College reserves the right to stop students found using aerosol sprays and implement behaviour policy consequences, should there be any concern that their actions are a threat to the health & safety of others site users.

