

WAC 388-148-0352

What are the requirements for the management of medication for children in my care?

General medication management requirements

(1) Medication must not be used for behavior control, unless prescribed for that purpose by a physician or another person legally authorized to prescribe medication.

(2) Only you or another authorized care provider (such as a respite provider) are allowed to have access to medications for a child under your care.

(3) You or another authorized care provider must give prescription and nonprescription medications:

(a) Only as specified on the prescription label; or

(b) As otherwise approved by a physician or another person legally authorized to prescribe medication.

(4) If you care for children in the custody of another agency, tribal or other court you must follow the direction of that agency or court regarding giving or applying prescription and nonprescription medications.

(5) Foster homes must keep a record of all prescription medication given to a foster child.

(6) All licensees, except foster homes, must keep a record of all prescription and nonprescription medications given to children in care.

Nonprescription medications

(7) You or another authorized care provider may give the following nonprescription medications according to product instructions, without prior approval of the department:

(a) Nonaspirin antipyretics/analgesics, fever reducers/pain relievers;

(b) Nonnarcotic cough suppressants;

(c) Decongestants;

(d) Antacids and anti-diarrhea medication;

(e) Anti-itching ointments or lotions intended specifically to relieve itching;

(f) Shampoo for the removal of lice;

(g) Diaper ointments and powders intended specifically for use in the diaper area of children;

(h) Sun screen for children over six months; and

(i) Antibacterial ointments.

Note: Other nonprescription medications may be given with a physician's standing order, if the order is child specific.

Prescription medications

(8) Children taking prescription medications, internally, must have the prescribing physician's written authorization before any other medications, herbal supplements, remedies, vitamins, or minerals are given.

(9) You must notify the child's social worker of changes in prescribed medications.

(10) Except for foster homes, the disposal of any prescription medication must be documented and contain the following information:

- (a) What medication was disposed;
- (b) The name of the child the medication was prescribed for;
- (c) The amount disposed;
- (d) The name of the individual disposing of the medication; and
- (e) The name of the individual witnessing the disposal.

Note: You may consult with a pharmacist on the proper disposal of medications that are no longer being taken or have expired.

Psychotropic medications

(11) Care providers must not consent to giving or stopping a psychotropic medication. Consent to begin or to stop a psychotropic medication for a child can only be given by one of these:

- (a) The child's parent;
- (b) Dependency guardians based on the authority of the dependency guardianship court order;
- (c) A court order; or
- (d) The child's social worker, if:
 - (i) The child is legally free and in the permanent custody of the department; or
 - (ii) It is impossible to obtain informed parental consent after normal work hours, on weekends, or on holidays.

WAC 388-148-0355

May I accept medicine from a child's parent or guardian?

(1) The only medicine you may accept from the child's parent, guardian, or responsible relative is medicine in the original container labeled with:

- (a) The child's first and last name;
- (b) The date the prescription was filled;
- (c) The medication's expiration date; and
- (d) Legible instructions for administration (manufacturer's instructions or prescription label) of the medication.

(2) You must notify the child's social worker when you receive a prescription from a child's parent or guardian.

WAC 388-148-0350

What are the requirements for obtaining consent for medical care for children under my care?

(1) In general, the department is the legal custodian of a child in foster care. The department has the authority to consent to emergent and routine medical services on behalf of the child. The department delegates some of that authority to out-of-home placement providers (both foster parents and facility-based programs). You must contact the child's social worker or children's administration intake (emergency placements) for specific information for each child.

(2) In case of medical emergency, contact children's administration intake as soon as possible.

(3) If you care for children in the custody of another agency, tribal court or other court you must follow the direction of that agency or court regarding permission to provide consent for medical care.