



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY
12234

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public and
Nonpublic Schools
Charter School Administrators
School Health Personnel

DATE: August 23, 2011

From: Ken Slentz 

Subject: New Policy for Stocking Albuterol Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs)

The Department is pleased to inform school administrators and health personnel that New York State schools are permitted to stock albuterol metered dose inhalers (MDIs) and/or liquid albuterol for use in a nebulizer for students diagnosed with asthma whose personal albuterol prescription is empty. The purpose of such policy is to reduce the number of absences for students with asthma. An air compressor for delivery of aerosolized medication via nebulizer can be used for multiple students who each have their own tubing and facemask or mouth piece. One stock albuterol MDI canister may be safely used to administer treatments to multiple students who each have their own spacer. A school may choose to stock albuterol for students under the following conditions:

- A written district policy is developed in collaboration with school health personnel and is approved by both the district medical director and the board of education. The district policy should specify:
 1. the process for obtaining and replacing the stock albuterol;
 2. the maintenance and cleaning of the school's stock MDI and nebulizer; individual students' MDIs and spacers; and/or students nebulizer tubing, facemask, or mouthpiece;
 3. the protocol for informing parents that the school stock albuterol was utilized;
 4. the protocol for informing parents/guardians of the need for replacement of their child's albuterol medication along with any district imposed deadlines.
- Each student must have a patient specific order for an albuterol MDI or for nebulized albuterol from their private health provider that includes an order permitting the student to use the school's stock albuterol in the event their own albuterol prescription is empty.
- The student's parent/guardian must provide written permission for the student to be administered the school's stock albuterol in the event their own albuterol prescription is empty.
- The school's stock albuterol is not to be used in place of the parent/guardian providing an albuterol medication for their child to the school. The school's stock

albuterol is only for use in the event the student's own albuterol is empty and while awaiting the parent/guardian to provide the school with a new one.

- Each student must have either their own labeled spacer provided by the parent/guardian that is used when administering either their own, or the school's stock albuterol MDI; or the student must have their own labeled tubing and facemask or mouthpiece that is used when administered their own, or the school's stock albuterol via nebulizer.
- The school's stock albuterol must be obtained from a licensed pharmacy.

This memo is not to be construed to permit schools to stock any other medications, with the exception of emergency epinephrine for administration by the school nurse (RN) under non-patient specific orders written by the district medical director for the treatment of signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis. All other student medications are to be provided by the student's parent/guardian to the school. Information on this is available under medications at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/schoolhealth/schoolhealthservices/>

Questions regarding school health services should be directed to the Office of Student Support Services at 518-486-6090.

c: Karen Hollowood