

The National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years: Notification of changes to Standard 11: Medication

Welsh Government have been notified by the Care Inspectorate for Wales of incidents and issues relating to children's health and well-being within registered childcare and play settings. Due to the need to protect children's health at all times and for children to receive the medicine they need in emergency situations we have set out the arrangements and information below.

In particular these issues and incidents relate to the specific provision of **non-prescribed medication** (liquid paracetamol) to children in the event of an emergency situation. This has led to calls for more clarity around what providers can and can't do in relation to **Standard 11: Medication** and whether non-prescribed liquid paracetamol can be stored and administered to children with appropriate measures in place. On the advice of health professionals, the Welsh Government recommends that registered providers use single dose liquid paracetamol sachets to avoid inaccurate dosage and contamination.

Currently, the NMS allows for the provision of prescribed medication for relevant children but does not provide specific standards related to non-prescribed medication. The changes we are making in this circular letter allow providers to administer liquid paracetamol in emergency situations only and these are set out below along with the changes made to the relevant standards. This information supersedes the current Standard 11 for Medication in National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to 12 years published November 2023 and is effective immediately.

Guidance relating to the administration of single dose liquid paracetamol sachets in emergency situations can include the following:

A medicine policy – this should be shared, and written consent obtained from the parent/carer relating to the arrangements and procedures for when there is a medical emergency situation whilst relevant children are being cared for at the setting. E.g., in the event of a dangerously high temperature in children.

The arrangements for the storage, administration and record keeping of single dose liquid paracetamol sachets for use in the event of an emergency.

Obtaining prior permission from parents/carers to enable providers to administer liquid paracetamol doses to relevant children in the event of an emergency situation.

Procedure for contacting parents/carers each time there is a need for emergency liquid paracetamol to be given.

Arrangements in place when the provider might not be able to make immediate contact with a parent or caregiver after a child falls ill whilst at the setting or is unable to collect

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the child immediately. E.g., this may occur when a parent/carer is some distance away from the setting.

Procedure to be followed when the provider has been advised to administer liquid paracetamol by a medical professional.

The following standards now apply

Standard 11: Medication

Outcome: Children are safeguarded by the setting's policies and procedures about medication and receive the medication they need.

The registered person is responsible for ensuring that:

11.1 There is a clear policy, understood and implemented by all staff and discussed with parents, about the storage and administration of any (prescribed or non-prescribed) medication. The policy conforms to the terms of the registered person's insurance cover.

11.2 The policy contains the procedure for dealing with medical emergencies.

11.3 The parent gives written permission before any medication is given.

11.4 Any medicine received into the setting is not out of date.

11.5 **All** medicines are stored securely in a locked container which is inaccessible to children and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

11.5 Information is gained to establish from the person delivering the child to the setting when exactly any medication was last administered.

11.7 Written records are kept of all medicines administered to children and parents sign the record book to acknowledge the entry.

11.8 Prescription medicines are not administered unless a doctor has prescribed them for that child.

11.9 Prescribed medication is stored in the original container, clearly labelled with the child's name.

11.10 If the administration of prescription medicines requires technical or medical knowledge, then individual training is provided by a qualified health professional. Training is specific to the individual child concerned.

11.11 If medication is administered to a child, this is with an understanding of the possible side effects of the medication. If medication is self-administered by the child, this is in line with written guidance from the parent and with an understanding of the possible side effects of this medication.

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