



Laws and Best Practices Regarding Inhaler Self-Carry

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Overview and components of the North Carolina 'Self-Carry' statute

'Self-Carry' Statute

- Parameters
 - Parental authorization/release of liability
 - Health care practitioner statement, authorization, order
 - School Nurse, or designee, assessment of student skill
- Viewed as 'permission' when parameters are met

explain the components of the law and best practice standards that influence the decision-making process for students who self-carry

- Overview and components of the North Carolina 'Self-Carry' statute
- Self-Carry: what it is, and what it is not
- Importance of student skill assessment

'Self-Carry' Statute

- § 115C-375.2. Possession and self-administration of asthma medication by students with asthma or students subject to anaphylactic reactions, or both.
- Session law passed in 2005
- Local boards of education shall adopt a policy authorizing a student with asthma or a student subject to anaphylactic reactions, or both, to possess and self-administer asthma medication on school property during the school day, at school-sponsored activities, or while in transit to or from school or school-sponsored events.

Self-Carry: what it is, and what it is not

Self-Carry: What it is not

- Self-Carry statutes are not ...
 - a requirement that students automatically receive 'permission' to manage the related medications;
 - the same as having emergency medications in close proximity to the student;
 - substitutions for required board policy and associated procedures;
 - substitutions for the presence of a supporting individual Emergency Action Plan.

Self-Carry: What it is

Year	2014-2015			2015-2016		
Grade	K-5	6-8	9-12	K-5	6-8	9-12
# with care at school	49,534	22,891	20,681	48,952	19,320	18,538
% Self-carry*	7.5%	3%	3.4%	12.9%	2.6%	2.9%

* In early years of legislation 20-22% total reported as self-carry

Importance of Student Skill assessment

Validation of Student Ability Prior to Self-Carry (Commonly completed by School Nurse): Maturity and Skill

- The request is reviewed by the school nurse.
- The student is provided with health counseling to include review of health condition, medications, triggers, precautions.
- Assessment of student's knowledge and developmental ability to be independent with medication. Should include role play of self-administration and when and how to obtain help when needed.

Self-carry: what it is

Upon confirmation of student maturity and skill for self-carry:

1. Review of school medication policy/procedures, disciplinary actions for sharing medication or failure to safeguard it.
2. Assure the student understands and signs a self-medication agreement.
3. Instruct the student's teacher(s), as appropriate, on the student's condition and authorization to self-carry and self-administer. This instruction may include cautions on usage and dosage of the medication

The student assessed as not ready

- Parents may not understand the independent nature of true self-carry.
- The desire to have the inhaler near-by can be accommodated without self-carry.
- Review areas of knowledge and maturity needed by student.
- Help the student and family work towards these over time.

What are self-carry challenges in your location?

References

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QUESTIONS?