

From time to time it may be necessary for medication to be administered to students during college hours, or whilst on excursions, in order to keep them safe.

Thomas Carr College's Policy

In the event that it is necessary to administer medication to a student it is our policy that:

- Staff do not administer minor analgesics such as paracetamol to students without the authorisation from the student's parent/carer;
- Prescribed medication will only be administered where a student's parent/carer has provided written permission to the college;
- Parents/carers are responsible for keeping the college updated if the requirement for prescription medication changes;
- Parents/carers are responsible for providing the prescribed medication and to collaborate with the college in working out arrangements for supply, administration and storage of the prescribed medication;
- Students must not carry medications unless there is agreement between the college and the student's parents/carers;
- Where it is appropriate and safe to do so students should self administer prescription medication under staff supervision;
- The college shall provide appropriate first aid facilities; and
- The college shall employ a College Nurse and ensure that teaching staff have appropriate first aid training.

Procedure

The following safety procedures shall be followed when dealing with the administration of medication:

Maintenance of Medical Records

Parents are requested to notify the college of all medical conditions that may require the administration of prescription medication during college hours.

Student medical records are maintained in accordance with our Student Medical Records Policy which includes a provision to ensure that Thomas Carr College is regularly updated as to the status of existing medical conditions.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents of students who require prescribed medication to be administered during college hours must notify the college of this requirement and collaborate with the college in working out arrangements for supply, administration and storage of the prescribed medication.

Student Action Plan (Medication)

An Action Plan should be developed for each student who is required to take regular prescription medication during college hours. The plan should specify agreed arrangements for supply, administration and storage of the prescribed medication.

The action plan shall be stored appropriately and updated regularly. It shall be communicated to relevant staff in a confidential manner.

Each staff member shall fulfil their agreed roles as documented in a student's individual action plan and the college shall inform parents as soon as possible of concerns regarding a student's health care should they arise.

Self Administration

Where it is appropriate and safe to do so students should self-administer prescription medication under staff supervision.

Staff Administration

Where prescription medication is administered by staff:

- The act of administering the medication should be undertaken in the office of the college nurse, if possible;
- The college nurse, or another staff member with first aid training, should be primarily responsible for administering the medication;

- When the College Nurse is unavailable, two staff members should be present when medication is administered, one with primary responsibility and one as an observer;
- The staff member with primary responsibility shall select the student's medication and appropriate dosage from the locked medication cupboard;
- The observer is responsible for confirming the name on the packaging and that the correct medication dosage is to be given to the student;
- The staff member with primary responsibility should record the student's name, medication and dosage in the Health Centre Log book and sign their name; and
- The observer should witness the entry confirming the fact that the appropriate medication and dosage have been given to the right student.

Storage of Medication

In some cases a student's immediate access to prescribed medication is very important for the effective management of conditions such as diabetes and asthma (Refer to our Asthma Management Policy) and it is appropriate that the student carry the medication on their person.

In other circumstances prescribed medication must be stored safely and access must be restricted to staff members. All medication must be appropriately packaged and clearly show the name of the medication, student's name, dosage and frequency of the dosage.

Note Regarding Emergency Care

The college will not generally supply or administer medications in an emergency unless the provision of such assistance is part of a student's action plan (Refer to our Anaphylactic Shock Management Policy).

It should be noted however that in any life threatening situation the welfare of the student is paramount and must be dealt with, with immediate priority, notwithstanding the absence of an appropriate action or health plan. (Refer to our Accident Management Policy).

Staff Responsibility

Thomas Carr College staff are responsible to ensure that they:

- Have the knowledge and skills to support and manage students who have medical conditions and to fulfil their agreed roles if included in a student's action plan.
- Are familiar with the medical records and individual action plans of students in their care, respecting the confidential nature of the information at all times.
- Work with other staff and professionals, in consultation with parents/carers to ensure the safety of students with specific health needs.
- Notify the Principal or a College Executive Group member and inform parents/carers as soon as possible of serious concerns regarding management of the student's health care.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- Staff training and supervision;
- Maintenance of medical records;
- Effective incident notification procedures;
- Effective communication procedures with the student's parents/carers and the students themselves; and
- Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Discipline for Breach of Policy

Where a staff member breaches this policy Thomas Carr College may take disciplinary action.

Related Policies

Accident Management

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Policy

Allergy Awareness Policy

Anaphylactic Shock Management Policy

Asthma Management Policy

First Aid Policy

Medical Appointments Policy

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Ratification Body: College Board Policy

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The content of this policy can be changed at the College Board's discretion at any time without notification.