



Chelsea Heights Primary School *Together we learn*

POLICY No. MED003 (Previously #30)

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

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Rationale:

Over 2 million Australians have currently doctor diagnosed asthma. That's one in nine Australian children and one in ten adults in our community who have asthma. In Victoria alone there are over 600,000 people with asthma. The prevalence of asthma in Australia is high by international standards.

Asthma is a common reason for hospital admissions in children under 12. In primary school aged children asthma is more common among boys than girls. After teenage years, more women have asthma than men.

People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers, their airways narrow, making it hard for them to breathe. (The Asthma Foundation Victoria 2012).

Aim:

To ensure that efficient and timely management of asthma treatment be carried out in the correct manner in accordance with student asthma management plans and to ensure ongoing education is provided to all staff.

Implementation:

- To ensure every student with asthma has an up to date Asthma Management Plan that is:
 - completed by the student's medical/health practitioner in consultation with the parents/guardians
 - provided annually by the:
 - doctor to the parents/guardian
 - parents/guardians to the school.

- The Plan must include:
 - the prescribed medication taken:
 - on a regular basis
 - as premedication to exercise
 - if the student is experiencing symptoms.
 - emergency contact details
 - business and after hours contact details of the student's medical/health practitioner
 - details about deteriorating asthma including:
 - signs to recognise worsening symptoms
 - what to do during an attack
 - medication to be used
 - an asthma first aid section and should:
 - specify no less than 4 separate puffs of blue reliever medication, with 4 breaths taken per puff every 4 minutes, using a spacer if possible.
- Ensure all staff with a duty of care for students are trained to assess and manage an asthma emergency and complete the free one-hour Asthma Education session at least every three years. (This is done through The Asthma Foundation Victoria).
- Each student with asthma must supply a spare spacer and "in date" asthma medication clearly named that can be left at school.
- The school will supply and maintain an adequate amount of bronchodilator medication (reliever such as Ventolin, Asmol and Airomir) in the first aid kits.
- In accordance with mandatory school asthma management updates, spacers are now single person use only, therefore if a child requires asthma treatment and does not have a spacer at school, the school will provide one **with the understanding that the parent is responsible for reimbursing the school for the full cost of the spacer.**
- Clear written instructions on asthma management will be with every asthma kit and in the first aid room.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of this policy will be completed annually or after a severe asthma attack.

Related Policies:

Policy No.13: Student Health and Medicine

Policy No.63: Student Injury and First Aid