

Medications in Child Care

Dane's Law

Effective October 1, 2005, Montana law makes it a felony for any employee, owner, household member, volunteer or operator of a day care facility to administer medication to a child without the written consent of the child's parent. ARM 37.95.181 and 182 lists the requirements child care providers must follow to comply with the law.

Medications

While children are in day care, oral medications should be administered by parents whenever possible. However, the rules allow providers to administer prescription and nonprescription medications to a child after a parent has completed and signed the medication authorization form. The provider must complete the medication administration log each time the medication is administered to the child. All medications must be supplied by the parent and returned to the parent when they are no longer being used. If the provider plans on applying topical ointments and creams such as diaper rash cream, antibiotic ointments, and sunscreens, the non-ingestible OTC medication authorization form must be completed by parents and reviewed and updated annually. The medication authorization and administration log must be completed on the state forms. These forms can be downloaded from the following site:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/earlychildhood/medicationinformation.shtml>

Medication Labeling and Storage

Any prescription medication brought into the facility must be labeled with the child's first and last name, the date the prescription was filled, the name of the health care provider who wrote the prescription, the medication's expiration date, and specific legible instructions for administration, storage, and disposal.

Any nonprescription medication brought into the facility must be labeled with the date, the child's first and last name, specific legible instructions for administration and storage (i.e., the manufacturer's instructions), and the name of the health care provider, parent, or guardian who made the recommendation. All medication must be stored in a place inaccessible to children. Although locked storage is not required, it is preferred as it is the safest method of storage. Medicine cabinets are considered accessible to children because it is possible for children to crawl up on the sink and reach

into the medicine cabinets. All cabinet drawers and doors must be equipped with child-proof latches if they contain medications or other potentially hazardous substances.

Medication Alert

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently released information regarding concerns on the use of over-the-counter (OTC) products containing benzocaine. Benzocaine may cause a rare but serious condition where the amount of oxygen that can be carried through the blood stream is greatly reduced. This condition is called methemoglobinemia. FDA is particularly concerned about the use of OTC benzocaine products in children for relief of pain from teething because of the serious outcomes, including death, that may be associated with methemoglobinemia.

Because of the serious health risks associated with benzocaine, Child Care Licensing is requiring that providers ONLY administer medications containing benzocaine under the written direction of the child's doctor.

A list of medications containing benzocaine can be found at the following link:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm250029.htm>

Training

Two new on-line medication courses are currently being offered. Enrollment is now open for Medication Administration 1 & 2. The classes may be found on-line at www.ChildCareTraining.org.