



# MEDICATION POLICY

February 2016

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BROKEN BAY**

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## 1. PURPOSE

To provide a policy for the administration of medications to students whilst attending school or school-based activities, in accordance with the advice of the student's 'prescribing health practitioner' or as an emergency first aid response. This policy must be read in conjunction with Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) Administration of Medication in Schools Procedures.

## 2. OVERVIEW

Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) acknowledges that the dignity, safety and wellbeing of students are central to the Church's teaching. CSBB also recognises that it is responsible and accountable for ensuring that students have a reasonable standard of support for their health needs whilst attending school or school-based activities. This forms part of CSBB's common law duty of care, which is fulfilled through its staff members, and includes the administration of prescribed medication and/or health care procedures.

All CSBB schools require medical authorisation from a prescribing medical or health practitioner to administer any medication to students (including over the counter medications such as Paracetamol, Claratyne etc).

An EpiPen or Ventolin inhaler may be administered without a prescribing medical or health practitioner authority, as part of emergency care in the case of an anaphylactic reaction or asthma attack.

It is acknowledged that prescribing health practitioners may not write 'a prescription' for non -prescribed or over the counter medications, however NSW Health, the Australian Medical Association and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia advise that this does not mean that these medicines are not potentially harmful and thus, schools should follow the same procedures for such medications as for 'prescribed medication'.

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**Emergency medication:** Medication required for the emergency first aid treatment of medical conditions, e.g. Midazolam for specific seizures, adrenaline auto-injectors for anaphylaxis, or Ventolin (blue reliever) for asthma.

**Health Care Management Plan:** This provides a daily guideline for the management of the student's health condition and may contain some instructions concerning the routine medication regime. The plan is developed by a qualified health practitioner, in consultation with the school staff, parent/carer, student, medical and other health professionals. Refer to Administration of Medications in Schools Procedures for detail regarding Health Care Management Plan.

**Medication:** In relation to this policy, medication refers to medication prescribed or used on the advice of a prescribing health practitioner, including over the counter medications. Either may be required and considered essential to be administered at school for a student to achieve optimum health and to participate fully in school life.

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**Prescription medication:** Medications prescribed by a prescribing health practitioner under the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, are dispensed by a pharmacist. Examples might include: Ritalin, Dexamphetamine, Seretide, Insulins and Antibiotics. Students on prescribed medication must provide via the parent or carer a written authority from the medical practitioner to give to the school. The presentation of the original medication container with an attached prescription pharmacy label constitutes a medical authority. practitioneherip theal

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