

Local guidance for the administration of over the counter medicines (OTC) in nurseries and schools

Background

The 'be self-care aware' agenda is a collaboration between Bury Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Local Authority. The aim is to encourage patients to self-manage minor health problems, to access advice from Community Pharmacies and to purchase any medication as advised by the pharmacist that they and their family need rather than being prescribed by their GP or other clinicians.

Childcare providers sometimes ask parents to obtain prescriptions for OTC medication such as paracetamol before they will administer to the children in their care.

This local guideline is intended to clarify the rules concerning the administration of OTC medicines to children in nurseries and schools.

Relevant national guidance

Nurseries:

In April 2017, the Department for Education produced the "Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage. Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five¹".

Page 27 of this framework relates to over the counter medicines, in particular the two paragraphs 3.45 and 3.46.

Schools:

In December 2015, the Department for Education produced the "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions. Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England²".

This statutory guidance includes statements relating to medicines, which can be found on pages 19 and 20.

Summary

- **The above documents published by the Department of Education confirm that prescribers are not required to prescribe or provide written directions for the administration of OTC medicines.**
- **Parental written consent is sufficient.**

References

¹ Department for Education: Setting the standard for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/03/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf (accessed 16/05/2018)

² Department for Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638267/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf (accessed 16/5/2018)