



Medical Conditions

Policy Statement

NBCA services follow National Health guidelines for the management of children in the service who have been identified by a medical professional as being at risk of anaphylaxis, asthma, allergies, hay fever and other medical conditions, including the day-to-day management of the service to reduce the likelihood of serious medical emergencies.

Implementation

- Families are responsible for providing detailed information about their child's allergies and medical conditions.
- Staff and students will be aware of any medical management plans and Risk Minimisation plans for children attending the service.
- Families should communicate any changes to the medical management plan and Risk Minimisation plan for the child, as they occur.
- A Risk Minimisation plan will be developed in consultation with families for children who have a diagnosed medical condition, including asthma, diabetes or a child at risk of anaphylaxis. Plans will be placed with the child's enrolment record and in the child's room. Risk Minimisation Plans will be updated annually, or as required.
- The service will provide the family with the Medical Conditions Policy, if the child has an ongoing medical condition that requires a Risk Minimisation Plan.
- Families must provide the service with documentation from a medical professional explaining the condition, symptoms and action plan, including a photo of the child. Plans are to be updated regularly or as required.
- Information regarding a child's medical condition or allergy will be readily available. Children's right to privacy will be respected at all times.
- NBCA staff and educators will access regular training and current information in relation to the administration of medication, asthma, anaphylaxis and medical emergencies.
- A parent must be notified as soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence, if the child is involved in any incident, injury, trauma or illness while the child is being educated and cared for by the service.
- A communication plan must be developed to ensure that relevant staff members and volunteers are informed about any medical conditions policy and medical management plan and risk minimisation plan for a child, including how a child's parent can communicate any changes to the medical management plan and risk minimisation plan for the child, setting out how that communication can occur.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Allergies and Intolerances

- The service will take all reasonable steps to ensure children do not consume or come in contact with any allergens they are known to react to.



- Children and staff who are allergic to the sunscreen or soap supplied by the service are responsible for providing an alternative product that is as equally effective, and safe for them to use. Families are required to give written permission for an alternate cream or lotion to be used on their child.
- Administration of asthma medication required for a child on a regular basis, will be recorded.
- If a child suffers an asthma attack or allergic reaction, permanent educators will administer First Aid and follow the relevant action plan.
- Only permanent educators with current First Aid qualifications will be permitted to administer medications such as Ventolin or an EpiPen, witnessed by another, who must also hold a current First Aid qualification. Asthma Foundation Regulations state spacers will not be shared.
- Any asthma attack, anaphylactic reaction or allergic reaction will be documented on an Exclusion Report and signed by the parent or authorised person to collect.
- In the event of a child receiving asthma or anaphylaxis medication as a result of a severe attack or allergic reaction, an ambulance will be called.
- In the event of a staff member suffering a severe asthma or anaphylactic attack or allergic reaction, an ambulance may be called at the discretion of the director or the responsible person in charge of the service.

Medical Plans & Medications

- Action plans must be provided in the format recommended for use by Asthma Australia and The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI).
- Action plans and photographs must be updated at least annually.
- Families must provide the relevant (in date) medication, on each day the child attends.
- Action plans are required for children with asthma (including seasonal or bronchial asthma), allergies, anaphylaxis, diabetes and any other medical condition.
- Medication will be administered as per directions on the Action Plan and first aid guidelines.
- Any child with an allergy, intolerance or life threatening condition will have their Action Plan and photo respectfully available where they usually attend.
- A copy of a child's individual Action Plan will be kept with the medication and apparatus in a place inaccessible to children but within the child's room.

Environmental Factors

- The service will follow ACT Health's advice and action recommendations with regards to air quality:
<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air-0>
<https://www.canberrapollen.com.au>
- The service will follow local health advice regarding pollen, thunderstorm asthma, hay fever and implement adjustments to outdoor exposure, as necessary.
- Families should communicate children's environmental requirements with the Service.
- The service will monitor outdoor temperatures and conditions, which may contribute to asthma, pollen allergy, hay fever, and other respiratory conditions.

Other Medical Conditions

- Any child or staff member with a diagnosed condition such as epilepsy will need to provide details of the condition and a management plan from a medical professional.



- Designated staff will undergo suitable first aid training and competencies to enable them to care for a child with a medical condition and respond should any condition escalate to a medical emergency, by providing immediate first aid treatment and the administration of medication as required.

Policy Links

Policies:

- Authorisations and Access
- Child Protection
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Exclusion
- Health, Hygiene and Infection Control
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Medication
- Sun Protection and Clothing
- Workplace Health and Safety

NQS: 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 6.1 and 7.1

Regulations: 89 – 95, 98 – 99, 136, and 168

Sources:

- ACT Health
- AirRater (<https://airrater.org/>)
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia
- Asthma Australia
- Canberra Pollen Count and Forecast (<https://canberrapollen.com.au/>)
- Diabetes Australia
- National Quality Framework
- Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (5th edition) 2013
- The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)
- Education and Care Services National Law (2011) - Section 51(1)(a) Conditions on service approval (safety, health and wellbeing of children)

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