

Managing Children's Identified Health Needs

Sheffield
LMC



GUIDANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs

August 2024

After lengthy negotiations spanning over 3 years, in 2012 guidance was published for schools and other settings entitled [*Managing Children and Young People's Identified Health Needs*](#).

The guidance:

- had input from a significant number of important stakeholders, including the Children and Young People's Directorate at Sheffield City Council (SCC), the Public Health Department, Head Teacher representatives, Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, school nurse representatives and Sheffield LMC;
- was disseminated to all state mainstream primary, secondary and special schools under the auspices of SCC;
- was approved for state schools under the auspices of SCC, but all schools were recommended to implement the guidance, as it is appropriate and relevant to independent schools, free schools, trusts and academies as well (who have a responsibility to have their own policy and insurance);
- encompasses many important issues that are known to cause GPs concern and can be a cause of conflict between GPs, parents and schools, such as:
 - Administering prescription medicine;
 - Administering non-prescription medicine for common remedies;
 - Use of creams and sun creams;
 - Management of asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, anaphylaxis and incontinence.

The aim of the guidance was for schools and other settings to:

- review current policies and procedures in relation to managing children and young people's identified health needs;
- put in place effective management systems to help support individual children and young people with medical needs;
- make sure that medicines are handled responsibly;
- ensure that all school staff are clear about what action to take in an emergency.

The scope of the guidance was to:

- address the needs of children and young people with long-term medical/health needs including the requirement, development and management of health care plans;
- meet the needs of children and young people who require medication in certain circumstances such as during PE lessons or educational visits;
- meet the needs of children and young people with short term medical/health needs;
- clarify the procedure for parental consent to administer non-prescribed medicines or common remedies, for a period not exceeding eight days (including weekends);
- Support children and young people who self-administer their medication.

In view of a number of guidance documents being issued since 2012, such as the Department of Health's *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions*, in 2021 SCC confirmed their intention to review subsequent publications with a view to the *Managing Children and Young People's Identified Health Needs* guidance being updated or replaced.

As this review has been ongoing for a number of years, until such time as SCC issues updated guidance, the LMC would recommend that practices continue to refer to SCC's current guidance and, as ever, bring any specific problems or concerns to the attention of the LMC via manager@sheffieldlmc.org.uk.