

Medication Management Video Transcript

Medication Management

If a child has a condition where the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) would apply, you must make reasonable accommodations and that may mean giving a child medication. The family must provide written instructions to caregivers on the proper administration of medications or treatment required for the child.

Care providers are free to choose whether or not to give medications outside of those required by the ADA. Your decision must be clearly documented in your health care policy and handbook. If a medication is prescribed two times per day or daily, oftentimes the family members will be able to administer it at home. There are exceptions, such as asthma medication, so be clear on when specifically, medication needs to be administered.

Key points to remember regarding administering medication:

Only documented staff who have been trained and oriented to your medication policies can give medications to children. There must be a start and stop date for each medication. You can only give the medication for the duration of the illness. Medications cannot be given “as needed.” (See WAC 170-295-3130 regarding use of EpiPens and asthma inhalers). Return any unsured portion to the family. Read all labels carefully! Parents must give written consent before you give any child any medication. Non-prescription medications also require family consent, such as antihistamines, non-aspirin fever reducers/pain relievers, decongestants, ointments for dry skin or diaper area, and sunscreen. You may not mix medications in formula or food unless you have written direction to do so from a health care provider. Prescription medication must be in the original prescription bottle or packaging.

Storing Medication

Medication containers may look like toys, and colorful pills may resemble candy. As few as 5 adult vitamins with iron can cause death in a small child. Never leave medication unsecured or unattended within a child’s reach. Store medication according to the directions on the label and keep out of reach of children.

Before giving medication to a child, always get written permission to give the medication from the parent. Read the label and carefully follow the instructions for the medication. Many errors are caused by not following the directions on the

medication label. Ensure the medication is appropriate for the child's symptoms and for the child's age and weight. Be sure you are giving the correct dose amount. Use a measuring tool like a measuring cup, syringe, dropper, or dosing spoon. Kitchen spoons are not accurate and should not be used to give medication. Medication errors are mistakes that harm or have the potential to harm a child. Keep a written log when you give medication to avoid these common errors: giving the medication twice, giving the wrong dose, and forgetting to give the medication.

****Transcript developed by Successful Solutions****