

Administration of Emergency Medications in the School Setting - Registered Nursing Delegation

MEDICATION	ROUTE	RN DELEGATION	RCW's, ADVISORY OPINIONS, MEMORANDUMS & GUIDES
<u>ALBUTEROL</u>	1) Rescue Inhaler	1) YES*	<p>(1) RCW 28A.210.260 - Public and Private Schools - Administration of Medications - Conditions</p> <p>(2) Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission - Excerpt from: Request for Advisory Opinion from the American Lung Association, Seattle Headquarters, Asthma Management in School Settings Committee (2000) May an RN in a school setting delegate to an unlicensed school employee, the following tasks related to the care of children with asthma</p> <p><i>Q-Assist a student who uses a mask or Aero chamber style spacer for inhaled medications for asthma—the medication is ordered “by mouth”, but the device also covers the nose?</i> A- YES, if the medication is ordered for oral inhalation, it falls within the category of “PO” or “by mouth”.</p> <p><i>Q -Orders for inhaled medication which provide a varying dose of medication (i.e. 1-2 puffs)</i> A- YES, if such orders are clarified with the authorized prescriber by the registered nurse, this type of medication may be delegated. The registered nurse should contact the authorized prescriber to determine, for instance, under which circumstances one versus two puffs of an asthma medication should be administered.</p>
	2) Nebulizer	2) YES*	<p><i>Q-Mix liquid medications in a nebulizer chamber for administration via oral inhalation?</i> A-YES. If the registered nurse has taught and supervised the assistive personnel to place medication in a nebulizer chamber, and if she has determined this is a safe procedure within an individual plan of care, this activity is part of the process of administration of oral medications.</p>
<u>DIASTAT</u>	Rectal	NO	<p>(1) RCW 18.79.260 (3) (c) Nursing Care - Registered Nurse - Activities Allowed – Delegation of Tasks “A registered nurse may not delegate acts requiring substantial skill, and may not delegate piercing or severing of tissues. Acts that require nursing judgment shall not be delegated “.</p> <p>(2) Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission - Excerpt from: Registered Nurses Coordinating Seizure Management (2005) “In school settings, an emergency treatment plan may not include provisions for the RN to delegate the administration of non-oral medications to unlicensed individuals”.</p>
<u>GLUCAGON</u>	IM	NO	<p>(1) RCW 18.79.260 (3) (c) Nursing Care - Registered Nurse - Activities Allowed – Delegation of Tasks “A registered nurse may not delegate acts requiring substantial skill, and may not delegate piercing or severing of tissues. Acts that require nursing judgment shall not be delegated “.</p> <p>(2) Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission Advisory Opinion in Guidelines for Care of Students With Diabetes (2005) page 88</p> <p><i>Q- May a registered nurse.....delegate the injection of glucagon to an unregulated person or persons?</i> A- NO. The procedure of administering glucagon injection for unresponsive hypoglycemia involves blood sugar testing, patient assessment and plans for follow-up and cannot be delegated to an unregulated person.</p>

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<u>EPINEPHRINE</u>	IM per auto-injector	YES*	<p>(1) RCW 18.79.240 (1) (b) Nursing Care - Construction This chapter shall not be construed as preventing a person from the furnishing of nursing assistance in case of emergency.</p> <p>(2) OSPI Guidelines for Care of Students with Anaphylaxis(2009) page 8 The exception noted above in RCW 18.79.240 includes the administration of injectable epinephrine during an anaphylactic, life threatening emergency.</p> <p>(3) Attorney General of Washington Memorandum to OSPI RE: Administration of Medication (1989) School Nurses may train non-licensed staff in the administration of epinephrine.</p> <p>(4) RCW 18.71.030 (1) Physicians - Exemptions Furnishing medical assistance in cases of emergency requiring immediate attention. Per memorandum above this is permissible without a license to practice medicine.</p>
<u>MIDAZOLAM</u>	Nasal	YES*	(1) RCW 28A.210.260 - Public and Private Schools - Administration of Medications - Conditions (Includes nasal sprays as of July 2013)

* = The decision to delegate a nursing task to unlicensed school staff is the sole responsibility of the registered nurse (RN) for the assigned student caseload.

Delegation of nursing care is not within the scope of practice of physicians, school administrators, principals, teachers, office staff, para-educators, bus drivers or other school and health care professionals.

The Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) may not delegate nursing tasks in the school setting.

No person may coerce the RN into compromising student safety by requiring delegation if the RN has determined it is unsafe to do so.
[RCW 18.79.260 \(2\) \(d\)](#)

Due to individual circumstances or complex student health needs, some nursing tasks can only be performed by licensed nurses.