



California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

TITLE

Experimental/Research Medications

POSITION STATEMENT

All students should have access to medications ordered by their health care provider, and all medications should be administered at school only when necessary, as required by the California Education Code. The Credentialed School Nurse or authorized, trained school personnel must have access to the drug information for each experimental/research medication to be administered including the nature of the drug and adverse effects that may be expected. If the experimental/research medication does not have a name, it must be identified with an I.D. Code.

BACKGROUND

Experimental/research medications are medications prescribed for students that do not fall within the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines for pediatric use. Pediatric experimental or investigational drugs are those medications currently involved in clinical trials.

Experimental/research medications must be administered within the Credentialed School Nurse's scope of practice and state guidelines. School districts are not obligated to administer experimental/research medications and medication doses that exceed standard dosages. Health care providers prescribing the experimental/research medication to be administered in the school setting should inform schools in writing of the nature of each medication and the adverse effects that may be expected for each drug. Parent(s) are encouraged to arrange for experimental/ research medication administration before or after school hours with the health care provider.

RATIONALE

Experimental/research medications may be necessary to aid in the development of controls and cures for a variety of physical, mental, and behavioral illnesses and conditions. Clinical trials are designed to protect participants' safety and rights while gathering important information about a product's safe and effective use. California School Nurses Organization strongly supports students' need for safe and effective medications.

In the public-school setting, Credentialed School Nurses are singularly qualified to monitor the administration of medications, their therapeutic benefits, adverse effects, proper documentation, and the importance of communication with the student, family, school staff, and health care providers.

REFERENCES

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Position Statement

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CSNO BOARD APPROVAL HISTORY

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