



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Revisions to 105 CMR 210: The Administration of Medications in Public and Non-Public Schools

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Massachusetts School Nurses Organization

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Summary of Regulation

105 CMR 210: *The Administration of Medications in Public and Non-Public Schools*, provides minimum standards for the safe and proper storage and administration of medications to students in the Commonwealth's public and non-public primary and secondary schools. It also permits school nurses to delegate responsibility for administration of medications to trained, nursing-supervised, unlicensed school personnel. The previous regulation addressed:

- The role of the medication program manager in overseeing and managing the medication program, beginning with registering with the Department of Public Health
- Training of unlicensed school personnel who may administer medication under the school nurse's supervision
- Procedures for students who administer their own medication
- Handling, storage, and disposal of medications
- A carve-out specific to administration of epinephrine for life-threatening allergic reactions

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Overview of Revisions to the Regulation

Medical practice and medication prescribing has advanced significantly since this regulation was last amended. There have also been increases in students with chronic conditions and medical complexity attending school. Key changes which we will discuss today are:

- Language updates and updated definitions
- Requirement for a Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR)
- Expanded access to emergency rescue medications
- Adding a carve-out for emergency rescue opioid antagonist (e.g., naloxone)
- Adding procedures for self-carry
- Outlining the authority in these regulations to conduct investigations

Revisions: Language Updates

Previous regulation

- Title and content of the regulation referred to “prescription” medication
- Language was out of date
- Common terms were used inconsistently

Summary of revisions

- Clarification that, because the Department’s statutory authority is more expansive, this regulation applies to all medications, including over-the-counter medications as well as medical devices that deliver medications.
- Updated the names of state agencies and made the language of the regulation gender neutral.
- Improved consistency of common terms throughout the regulation, such as caregiver, student, etc.

Revisions: Updated Definitions

Previous regulation

- Some definitions were unnecessarily complex or unclear
- Key definitions were missing

Summary of revisions

- Removed an unnecessary hierarchy of school staff and instead refers to a new defined term, Unlicensed School Personnel.
- Added a definition of Medication which is specifically inclusive of over-the-counter medications. Additionally, Emergency Rescue Medication was defined.
- Added a definition of Regular School Activities which has been challenging to define for residential schools. The new definition clarifies that field trips ARE a part of the regular school day.

Revisions: Requirement for MCSR

Previous regulation

- Unclear on whether or under what circumstances registration with the Department was required

Summary of revisions

- Affirmatively requires that all schools that store or administer medications must register with the DPH Drug Control Program for a Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registration (MCSR).

Revisions: Emergency Rescue Medications

Previous regulation

- Allowed training on administration of epinephrine
- Did not address the current availability of pre-dosed, layperson-appropriate emergency rescue medications

Summary of revisions

- Allows for training on, or delegation of, additional emergency rescue medications to unlicensed staff under certain circumstances. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - Naloxone or other FDA-approved opioid antagonists
 - Rescue inhalers
 - Glucagon (nasally administered AND auto-injector ONLY)
 - Seizure rescue medications (nasally administered)
 - Nerve agent or nuclear fallout antidotes (e.g., atropine and pralidoxime chloride)

Revisions: Naloxone

Previous regulation

- No specific section on emergency rescue opioid antagonists

Summary of revisions

- Added a new section *210.011: Administration of Emergency Rescue Opioid Antagonist* that is similar to the existing carve-out for epinephrine and allows unlicensed staff to administer undesignated emergency rescue opioid antagonists (e.g., from naloxboxes). This will increase access to emergency rescue opioid antagonists in school settings.
- A new section was added post-public comment: 105 CMR 210.011(A)(7) was added to address storage of emergency rescue opioid antagonists.

Revisions: Self-Carry

Previous regulation

- Provisions related to self-administration of medications did not allow for students to self-carry medication, making self-administration impractical

Summary of revisions

- Provides clear guidance for students to self-carry medication.

Revisions: Investigations

Previous regulation

- The Department provided minimal detail on its ability to conduct investigations

Summary of proposed revisions

- Added *210.017: Inspection and Investigation*, which clarifies the Department's ability to inspect school records and issue plans of correction to schools found to be out of compliance with the regulation.

New Medication Courses and Resources Now Available

The medication courses are available here: [Mandated Trainings](#). Note: course names have changed, and both courses are now fully self-paced.

The [Medication Admin and Delegation](#) resources have been updated, including the revised regulation, updated medication e-book and job aids, training resources and MCSR registration information. The [new reporting form for opioid antagonist doses given in school](#) is also available.

We sincerely hope the new and revised tools and trainings meet your needs, and we welcome any feedback!

Resources

For more information regarding the administration of medications in primary and secondary schools, please find the relevant statutory language and the full current regulation here:

Massachusetts Law

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXV/Chapter94C>

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section54B>

Regulation

<https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-21000-the-administration-of-medications-in-public-and-non-public-schools>

 **Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

Questions?

