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Severe Allergic Reaction (Anaphylaxis) Policy:

Background:

Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) can be caused by a variety of triggers and most commonly include food & insect stings. Other common causes of anaphylaxis include allergies to latex, medications, and various environmental stimuli.

Anaphylaxis can affect almost any part of the body and cause various symptoms. The most dangerous symptoms include difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, swelling of mucus membranes, and a drop in blood pressure or shock, which are potentially fatal.

Treatment of anaphylaxis is centered on treating the rapidly progressing effects of the histamine release in the body with epinephrine. The allergen should also be removed immediately.

Legal Framework:

In 2013, the United States Congress passed The School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act which encourages states to adopt laws requiring schools to have "stock" epinephrine auto-injectors for use by any student Public Law No 113-48.

Louisiana passed the Emergency Epinephrine Act (Act 624), found within the Louisiana School Code, R.S.17:436.1(K), which specifically authorizes physicians licensed in Louisiana to "...prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of a public or individual non-public school to be maintained for use when deemed necessary.

Creating an Allergen-Safe School Environment:

- Protecting a cadet from exposure to offending allergens is the most important way to prevent life-threatening anaphylaxis.
- Avoidance of exposure to allergens is the key to preventing a reaction.
- The risk of exposure to allergens for a cadet is reduced when the school personnel, medical provider and parent/guardian work together to develop a management plan for the cadet.
- Educating the entire school community about life-threatening allergies is important in keeping cadets with life-threatening allergies safe.
- Develop and follow procedures for handling food allergens in the school cafeteria
- Utilize FDA- approved cleaning products to prevent cross - contamination.

Policy

Pursuant to ensuring the health and safety of cadets, a school nurse or trained school employee may administer auto-injectable epinephrine, as defined in RS 17:436.1 subparagraph (J)(4)(a) to a cadet who the school nurse or trained school employee, in good faith, professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not such student has a prescription for epinephrine.

At least two employees at NOMMA shall receive training from a licensed medical professional in the administration of auto-injectable epinephrine. The school nurse or trained employee may administer the auto-injectable epinephrine to respond to a cadet's anaphylactic reaction, under a standing protocol from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state.

Training shall include:

1. Proper procedures for the administration of epinephrine;
2. Storage and disposal of epinephrine;
3. Appropriate record-keeping and documentation;
4. Appropriate actions when unusual circumstances or medication reactions occur;
5. Appropriate use of resources

NOMMA may maintain a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine at the school in a locked, secure, and easily accessible location. A licensed health professional authorized to prescribe medications may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of the NOMMA to be maintained for use when deemed necessary pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

Qualified NOMMA staff will use this emergency supply of epinephrine auto injectors under the following circumstances:

1. When a cadet does not have an epinephrine auto-injector or a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector on file, Sub-Section 436.1(K) of the Louisiana Title School Code provides that the school nurse or trained school employee may utilize the supply of an epinephrine auto-injectors to respond to anaphylactic reactions, under a standing protocol from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches and the requirements of Section R.S. 17:436.1(K). The school nurse or trained school employee may administer an epinephrine auto-injector, as provided for in the standing protocol, to any cadet that he or she "...in good faith professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction."
2. When a cadet has a known allergy according to an Individual Health Care Action Plan or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the school nurse or trained school employee may administer an epinephrine auto-injector to the cadet having an anaphylactic reaction that meets the cadet's prescription on file.

NOMMA takes the Following steps to manage anaphylactic reactions on campus:

1. Implement necessary precautions to limit exposure of cadets to known triggers;
2. Provide training for all adults in a supervisory role in the recognition and emergency management of a specific medical condition for specific cadets;
3. Create and maintain up-to-date Individual Health Care Plans (IHP), Emergency Care Plans (ECP), 504 Plans, or Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) as indicated;

4. Have standing emergency medical protocols to authorize for nursing staff to administer epinephrine, in good faith, to a student who is believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not such cadet has a prescription for epinephrine, and to have alternate, trained school personnel to administer epinephrine when the nurse isn't available, relative to R.S. 17:436.1 (K).
5. Maintain stock supplies of life saving emergency medications, as allowed by the laws of Louisiana, such as auto-injectable epinephrine (EpiPens), in the NOMMA clinic for use in first time emergencies;
6. Follow specific legal documents duly executed in accordance with the laws of Louisiana with medical orders regarding the care of specific cadets with severe life-threatening conditions;
7. Allow self-directed cadets as assessed by the school nurse to carry life-saving medication with prior approval and recommendation by the cadet's primary medical provider, and according to health practice and procedures, as long as duplicate life-saving medication is also maintained in the health office in the event the self-carrying cadet misplaces their medicines;
8. Assure that appropriate and reasonable building accommodations are in place to ensure the ability to respond to medical emergencies.
9. Assure that each administration of auto-injectable epinephrine from the emergency stock be documented according to the procedures established by the NOMMA clinic and communicated to the cadet's parent or guardian.

Liability

If a parent or guardian provides NOMMA with a cadet's prescription for epinephrine:

NOMMA may inform the parent or guardian of the cadet, in writing, that NOMMA and its employees, agents, and consultants including a physician providing standing protocol or prescription for school epinephrine auto-injectors, are to incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the administration of medication or use of an epinephrine auto-injector

The parent or guardian must sign a statement acknowledging the release of this liability upon surrendering epinephrine auto-injector to school nurse or trained school employee.

If a cadet does not have a prescription for epinephrine on file with NOMMA and the school nurse or trained school employee administers an epinephrine auto injector to a cadet whom he or she in good faith professionally believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, notwithstanding the lack of notice to the parents or guardians of the cadet or the absence of the parents or guardians signed statement acknowledging no liability except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the administration of medication or use of an epinephrine auto-injector regardless of whether authorization was given by the cadet's parents or guardians or by the cadet's physician. [Louisiana Act 1975, No.600, 1. R.S. 9:2793(A-C)].