

This document, therefore, supports Early Years Providers to request the written permission of a parent, or carer. However, there is ***no requirement for OTC medicines used in conditions suitable for self-care to be written on a prescription.***

Schools, Out of School, After School and Holiday Clubs

Advice for use of OTC medicines in these settings is the same as that for the Early Years Providers i.e. ***OTC medicines can be administered following written permission by the child's parent, or carer.*** GPs and other prescribers are not required to provide confirmation that the medicine is appropriate. Schools should have their own policy that outlines the circumstances in which non-prescription medicines may be administered to a child, or used by the child, while at school.

In December 2015, the Department for Education produced the guidance ***“Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England”***.ⁱⁱⁱ This guidance is primarily related to policies and procedures required to be in place for children with medical conditions requiring an individual health care plan. It states that: “no child under 16 should be given prescription or non-prescription medicines without their parent’s written consent” and also “schools should set out the circumstances in which non-prescription medicines may be administered”.

Schools and Early Years providers are, therefore, requested to review their policies to enable parents to give written consent for the use of an OTC non-prescribed medicine for minor conditions, without requesting a prescription be written. This will support the Clinical Commissioning Group’s self-care policy, thereby reducing demand for appointments in general practice for minor conditions suitable for self care and will reduce expenditure on prescriptions for OTC medicines.

With thanks to Warrington CCG for their document “Over the counter medicines in nurseries and schools” upon which this document is based.

This version was developed and ratified by NHS Eastern Cheshire, NHS South Cheshire and NHS Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Groups and has been adapted by NHS West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

References cited in the document:

i https://www.westcheshireccg.nhs.uk/document_uploads/clinical-policies/Self-care_Policy_October_2016.pdf

ii https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/03/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf

iii https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484418/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf