

Practice Policy: Provision of Salbutamol Inhalers for Schools

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the approach of [Practice Name] regarding requests from schools for salbutamol inhalers to be kept on site for emergency use in children with asthma, in accordance with Department of Health guidance (2014) "Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools".

2. Background

- Since October 2014, UK law allows schools to hold emergency salbutamol inhalers for use by children who are diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler, where parental consent has been obtained.
- Schools are responsible for purchasing, storing, and maintaining their stock inhalers and spacers.
- GP practices are not required to prescribe salbutamol inhalers for schools; inhalers should be purchased directly by schools from a community pharmacy.

3. Practice Position

- GP practices will continue to prescribe salbutamol inhalers for individual patients as part of their personal asthma management.
- Requests from schools for stock salbutamol inhalers will not be issued on FP10 prescriptions. Schools must obtain their supply directly from a pharmacy using a signed order from the Headteacher.
- Practices may provide supporting information (e.g. letters confirming diagnosis or treatment) for individual children if required, but this remains part of routine patient care and not for the purpose of stock medication.

4. School Responsibilities

- Schools must purchase inhalers and spacers directly from a community pharmacy.
- Schools should maintain their own register of pupils with asthma or prescribed inhalers.
- Consent from parents/carers must be obtained before the emergency inhaler is used.
- Schools are responsible for staff training in the use of inhalers and asthma management.

5. Practice Responsibilities

- Provide appropriate prescribing and reviews for individual patients with asthma.
- Ensure parents/carers are aware of their responsibility to supply inhalers for their child's personal use at school.
- Signpost schools to official Department of Health guidance regarding emergency inhalers.

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6. References

Department of Health (2014). Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools.

British Thoracic Society / SIGN Asthma Guideline.

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