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Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

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Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

By Heidi Hotvedt, RN

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Medication in Child Care

In Iowa, 75% of families with all parents working have children under the age of six. Many of these children spend up to 10 hours per day in child care and families rely on child care providers to see that their children get the medication they need while in care.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, greater than 50% of children are given one or more medications (prescribed or over-the-counter) per week. A 2014 study found that every 8 minutes a child experiences a medication error in the United States with more than 200,000 medication errors reported annually to poison control centers nationwide. 30% of the errors are with children under the age of 6 years and most (82%) involve liquid medications. The number and rate of medication errors increased with decreasing age, with children under 1 year of age accounting for more than 25% of errors. Administering medication requires knowledge, skill and training.

Written policies are recommended for the administration of prescription and non-prescription medication. A medication policy should include:

- Written authorization forms completed by an individual child's parents or guardian and health care provider
- Process of accepting medication from parents/guardians
- Procedures for administering medication
- Handling and storage of medications
- Returning medication to parents/guardians
- Disposal of medications that cannot be returned
- Maintenance of a medication administration record

DHS regulation for medication administration includes that parent authorization is required to administer medication to children. For any medication given in care a record is required that includes the name of the medicine, date, time, dosage given and who administered the medication (or the reason the medication was not given).

Because safe medication administration in child care is extremely important, Caring For Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards (standard 3.6.3.3.) states that any caregiver/teacher who administers medication should complete a standardized

Medication Administration Skills Competency Course

Healthy Child Care Iowa has a new Medication Administration Skills Competency course. This 2-hour professional development course is designed to address the principles and skills needed to administer medications to children. The course addresses the most common medications given in child care including oral medications, eye drops and ointments, ear drops, nasal drops and sprays, topical creams/ointments, nebulizer treatments and metered-dose inhalers. The course includes a 1-hour skills competency evaluation to be completed within 30 days of taking the course. The course and skills competency evaluation may be used for QRS points in the health and safety category. For QRS, both the 2-hour course certificate and the 1-hour competency skills evaluation certificate are required. For more information contact your local child care nurse consultant or visit the DHS training registry website at [http://](http://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/trainingregistry/)

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