

New Jersey State Department of Education
Administration of Medication in Schools

Q. Who is permitted to administer medications to students?

A. Only the following individuals are authorized to administer medication to pupils in schools:

- School staff holding a current medical or nursing license (e.g., the school physician or school nurse);
- Substitute school nurse employed by the district;
- Pupil's parent or guardian;
- Pupil approved to self-administer per *N.J.S.A.* 18A:40-12.3; and
- School staff designated and trained to administer epinephrine using an auto-injector per *N.J.S.A.* 18A:40-12.5 and 12.6.

Q. How should medications be administered on a field trip?

A. Students who have been classified as eligible for special education or who have a 504 plan that includes medications cannot be denied access to educational opportunities based on their need for medication during the school day. It is recommended that children who require accommodations because they are on medication should have a 504 plan. The school must make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for these students. Possible options include:

- Send a school nurse on the trip;
- Hire a school nurse substitute to go on the trip;
- Ask the student's parent or guardian to go on the trip;
- Confer with the child's parent and health-care provider to alter the time, dosage, route or kind of medication on the day of the trip and obtain a written order for the change; or
- Confer with the parent and health-care provider to eliminate the medication on the day of the trip and obtain a written order from the health-care provider for the change.