

ASTHMA INHALER BILL – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do all students have to use the form created by the Utah Department of Health?

A: A student may use another form provided by the school district or a parent's own written explanation. A district form or a parent's form must satisfy all requirements of the new law.

Q: Do schools have to accept the form created by the Utah Department of Health?

A: Yes. This form meets all requirements set forth by the new law. This means that the school cannot prohibit the student from carrying and administering their inhaler as long as the form has been completed and signed by the health care provider and parent/guardian.

Q: If a student has an inhaler in the hallway, but there are no forms on file in the office, what should the school personnel do?

A: School staff should ask the parent/guardian to provide appropriate forms immediately. A student's failure to have required forms on file could result in misunderstanding with school personnel. If parents have questions about required forms, they may contact the Utah Department of Health or locate required forms and information on the web at www.health.utah.gov/asthma.

Q: If a parent/guardian does NOT want the child to carry an inhaler, what should the parent do?

A: The parent/guardian does not have to authorize the child to carry and administer his own medication. If the parent/guardian would prefer to have school personnel administer medication, the parent/guardian would follow current district policies relating to administration of medication by school personnel.

Q: How does this new law affect a current district's medication policy?

A: A district may need to revise current medication policy to reflect this new law.
This law is specific only to inhaled asthma medication.

Q: Whose responsibility is it to ensure a student has proper authorization to carry an inhaler?

A: The ultimate responsibility is with the parent or guardian. However, it should be handled collaboratively between parents, school staff, and school nurses and in accordance with the district's medication policies and procedures.

Q: Do I need to fill out a new authorization for each school year?

A: Yes. A new form is filled out each school year to ensure that all health information is current.