Health Care Plans for Students

Program Area: Student Welfare

Rationale:
Allergy to all nut products including peanuts is the second most common food allergy in children and is on the increase. It occurs in about 1 in 50 children and 1 in 200 adults. Peanut is the most likely food to cause anaphylaxis and death. Allergies and reactions to bee and insect stings is also increasing. Diabetes in children is on the increase and children who have just developed the condition often have large fluctuations in their blood sugar levels. Children diagnosed diabetic must be monitored and regularly checked.

Aims of the Program:
• Minimise the risk of a child incurring an allergic reaction
• Maintain the legal responsibility of the school and the Department of Education
• Ensure all staff have a knowledge of health issues and the appropriate procedures
• Communicate with the school community the health issues present and ways the community can assist

Definitions:
Anaphylaxis: A severe allergic reaction
Diabetes: Disorder of the metabolism to produce insulin
Asthma: Allergic Respiratory Disease
Epilepsy: Nervous disorder with convulsions and often loss of consciousness
Health Care Plan: A consistent document, provided by the parent and signed by a physician outlining the condition and appropriate response to manage that condition.
Epipen: An auto injector containing a single dose of adrenalin in a spring loaded syringe.

Procedure:
1. Establishment of Health Care Plans
Communicate with Parents:
• At the commencement of each year in the first newsletter home, and on enrolment, a request will be made for parents to indicate if their child has anaphylaxis, diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, etc
• Parents will then be asked to provide a health care plan according to the standard plan designed by ASCIA 2003 – Appendix 7 (Anaphylaxis: Guidelines for Schools – Severe Allergic Reactions)
• It is the parents responsibility to provide a correct plan that has been compiled in accordance with the details requested and in consultation with their physician.

Display of Health Care Plans:
Health care plans are the be displayed in the following areas around the school:
• First Aid Room / Office
• Staff Room
• Casual Folders
Health Care Plans for Students

1. In classrooms and teaching spaces
2. After School Care

**Storage of Epipens and blood monitoring devices**
- It is the responsibility of parents to provide a current Epipen (in date), clearly labeled with child’s name and photograph.
- Epipens and blood monitoring devices will be stored in the office. At all times, all devices are to be clearly labeled and maintained by parents of children.
- Under no circumstances will Epipens be shared.

2. **Staff Training**
- On an annual basis, staff will be trained in the use of the Epipen and how to manage an anaphylactic reaction and what to do in the event of a diabetic attack.
- Training will be undertaken by a certified trainer.
- Staff will be trained on the indicators of anaphylactic reaction, diabetic attack, asthma attack and epileptic seizure. All staff receive annual CPR training and recertification.

3. **Community Communication**
- An appeal to refrain from sending all nut products, including peanuts to school will be posted in the school newsletter at the beginning of the school year, discussed at Kindergarten Orientation (policy provided) and the policy and guidelines will be included in the school information provided to all new enrolments.
- An annual meeting of parents with children who have a health care plan to review the school’s policy.
- Updating of new parent information packs in accordance with this policy.
- Updating of Parent Information Booklets in accordance with this policy.

4. **Nut Policy**
- It must be noted that the school cannot be called a nut free school in accordance with DET policy and procedure.
- The school is not able to make a blanket ban on nut products but strongly encourages all parents to be supportive in not providing nut products for any child at Wollongong West Public School.

5. **Provision of nut free foods for the children at school**
- Parents of anaphylactic children are encouraged to provide the class teacher with a package of ‘treats’ to be provided to the child when the class has a celebration.
- On those occasions when a whole school activity involves food, a parent representative will liaise with other parents to provide foods that have been prepared in a nut free kitchen and are clearly labeled as nut free.
- Children at the school are not to share foods with any child at any time.

6. **Excursions / Out of School Grounds Activities – sport, walking excursions**
All excursions must have a risk assessment that covers allergens and other potential health risks. Organising staff should seek out health care plans and ensure that all children at risk have been identified and that Epipens, blood glucose monitors, insulin and hypo packs should be taken on the excursion.
The teacher in charge of the excursion, the excursion coordinator, has the duty of care for all students and staff on the excursion. The duty of care cannot be given over to a parent or to a group.

- The excursion coordinator assesses the risk to decide if the medical equipment can be in the First Aid Kit or if the student should carry it in a bum bag.
- The teacher / excursion coordinator must make sure, if the student is supervised by another adult, that this person is aware and has the necessary skill, to use the appropriate emergency medical equipment.
- These situations are emergencies and supervising staff are expected to act appropriately.
- Mobile phones are to be taken on all excursions.
- In the case of sporting activities, the team coach takes the role of the excursion coordinator.
- It is the responsibility of the excursion coordinator to ensure the items are returned to the office on arrival back at school

7. Casual Staff and Visiting Teachers
All casual staff and visiting teachers should be made aware of the children in their care who have diabetes or anaphylaxis. They should be directed to the health care plan and the action plan and informed who should be immediately contacted in the event of a reaction. This should be the closest teacher who is trained in the use of the Epipen.

Ratification
This Policy has been developed in conjunction with the school community, staff and Principal.

Departmental Policy References: