

Independent Medication Administration



If a child carries his own medication, decides when a dose is needed and takes the dose without supervision, this is considered Independent Medication Administration. ***Only programs approved to give medication are able to have children independently take medication.***

Your program must have the following to allow a child to carry his own medication and decide when to take it:

- The OCFS regulations require that all medication be kept out of the reach of children. If a child is going to carry his own medication, your program must complete a general waiver request explaining how the program will meet the intent of the regulation for keeping medication out of the reach of children while allowing the child to carry or get his own medication.
- You must have a separate waiver approved for each child the program would like to allow to carry his own medication since each child's medication, capability and circumstances are different.
- Information on waivers can be found in the OCFS Day Care Regulations, section 413.6.

Your program should also have an individual health care plan for each child who will independently administer his medication. The child's plan will:

- state that staff approved to administer medication must be available when the child is in the program;
- explain how the child will carry the medication and make sure it is not accessible to other children in the program;
- explain how the child will tell program staff of any doses he administers;
- explain how staff will document each dose the child takes independently;
- explain how staff will recognize and respond to possible side effects; and
- list any additional training or competencies staff approved to give medication may need to care for the child and who will provide this training.



This page is intentionally blank.