

Medical Emergencies Requiring Immediate Staff Interaction

Full protocols derived from Doctors Directives, exist in the Health Centre for the following medical emergencies.

A. Asthma Attacks

If a pupil or member of staff has an asthma attack ensure that:

1. The reliever inhaler is taken immediately.

This is usually **BLUE** and opens up the narrowed air passages.

If the pupil does not have an inhaler, telephone the Health Centre (0118 987 9566) immediately and they will collect the person, or send the person with any staff member by car to the Health Centre.

2. Stay calm and reassure.

Attacks can be frightening so stay calm. Listen carefully to what the person is saying. It is very comforting to have a hand to hold but do not put your arm around the person's shoulders, as this is restrictive.

3. Help the person to breathe.

Encourage slow and deep breathing. Most people find it easier to sit upright or lean forward slightly. Lying flat is **NOT** recommended. Ensure tight clothing is loosened and offer a drink of water.

Minor attacks should not interrupt school involvement. As soon as they feel better they can return to normal activities.

Emergency situation

- I. The reliever inhaler has no effect after 5 - 10 minutes.
- II. The person is either distressed or unable to talk.
- III. The person is becoming exhausted.
- IV. You have any doubts at all about the condition.

Continue to give reliever medication every few minutes. Phone for an ambulance directly (999) and send for Health Centre staff while waiting.

Obviously it is desirable under such circumstances to enlist the aid of one's nearest colleague. If one is alone with a class in a building, one will have to rely on the assistance of one or two of the most sensible members of the class to call for help.

Never leave the asthmatic alone.

B. Epileptic Attacks

In a major attack the pupil/ staff/ visitor will lose consciousness, fall to the ground, go rigid and start to jerk violently.

DO NOTHING EXCEPT BY SAFEGUARDING IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. Try to break the fall.
2. Gently support the head/neck to prevent injury
3. Remove furniture etc likely to cause injury.
4. Clear spectators.
5. Get a message to the Health Centre for assistance. (0118 987 9566)
6. If possible carefully loosen clothing around the neck.
7. When convulsions stop, place in recovery position.

REMEMBER

STAY with the person until qualified help arrives.

DO NOT try to restrain.

DO NOT move unless in danger.

DO NOT try to open mouth or place anything in the mouth (even if the tongue has been bitten.)

DO NOT try to rouse.

DO NOT give any food or drink until fully alert.

C. Procedures for Hypoglycaemia in Diabetics

Pupils who are diabetics are listed in the medical concerns file. Hypoglycaemia occurs when the blood sugar is too low.

Signs

- Change in personality
- Aggressive
- Slurred speech
- Sweating
- Confused
- May become unconscious

Be aware of "Medi Alert" bands on wrist or neck.

It is important to replace sugar quickly with a sugary drink or chocolate bar if possible. Usually recovery is rapid. Notify the Health Centre who will monitor blood sugar and follow up treatment.

D. Severe Allergies

A list of pupils with any form of severe allergy is in the medical concerns file, a copy of which is held in Oakview, each House and in the Common Room and is regularly updated.

Appropriate training will be given to staff on EpiPen administration on an annual basis and new staff on arrival.

The onset is very rapid – there may be severe swelling, respiratory distress, faintness, confusion.

The affected person may have an EpiPen/Anapen to use immediately.

Phone for ambulance directly and send for Health Centre staff while waiting. Never leave the person unattended, place in the recovery position.

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