

HAMILTON COLLEGE

Junior and Senior School

GUIDELINES CONCERNING USE OF INHALERS AND EPIPENS

1. Where are pupils' inhalers and epipens stored?

These may be kept with the child, provided he/she is deemed to be responsible in the way he/she uses and handles the medication. It is advisable that each child using an inhaler or epipen has a back-up which will be stored in the First Aid room which is locked overnight. A backpack containing inhalers, epipens and piriton is taken into the playground during Junior School intervals and is also issued to Aftercare staff each day. Junior School staff will ensure that pupils using such medication have access to them when they are in lessons in Senior School. Pupils' Health Care Plans, which give details of their inhaler and epipen requirements, are stored in the First Aid room (pupils listed alphabetically by Junior and Senior School).

2. What is the procedure regarding out-of-date inhalers and epipens?

Out-of-date inhalers and epipens are not a danger to health but are likely to be less effective than current medication. Nonetheless, in an emergency, the best advice is to use the out-of-date medication.

3. What is the procedure regarding the use of other pupils' inhalers and epipens?

While this practice is not ideal, in the event of an emergency the best advice is to use an inhaler or epipen belonging to another pupil.

4. Who has responsibility for ensuring that inhalers and epipens are up-to-date?

Parents are asked to take responsibility for ensuring that their children's medication is up-to-date. Our First Aiders regularly monitor medication and will alert parents if they become date lapsed *but ensuring that medication is current should not be taken as the responsibility of First Aiders.*

5. What is the protocol for taking pupils who use inhalers and epipens on school trips?

As we do not always know what will trigger an asthma attack or anaphylactic shock, it is essential that pupils who have inhaler/epipen use listed on their Health Care Plan should carry this - even if there has been no recent incidence of ill-health.

Teachers organising school trips must carry out risk assessments and must be fully apprised of pupils who may require such medication. If a pupil intends to go on a school trip without his/her inhaler or epipen, he/she will not be permitted to do so.

6. What is the protocol for dialling for an ambulance?

Teaching staff are not normally expected to make emergency calls to the ambulance service. If an emergency arises, the teacher will immediately send someone to contact a First Aider. First Aid staff will make the 999 call. *The exception to this is when the member of staff deems the situation to be urgent and potentially life-threatening.*