



# Medication and Asthma Policy

<b>Date of policy</b>	<b>January 2024</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>September 2025</b>

## **Medication and asthma policy and procedure**

**Smarties does not accept children who are unwell at the time of arrival at the provision.**

**This policy relates to:**

- Children who become unwell while attending Smarties and the health care policy.
- The medication management for children in specific circumstances and links with the contract for parents/carers, admissions policy and equality and inclusion policy.

**It is the policy of Smarties to support any child who becomes unwell during their time in our care; and to welcome children who require prescribed medication to be administered to maintain their wellbeing while attending this provision, in line with the equality and inclusion policy.**

**We do this by operating the following procedure:**

- In the event of a child becoming unwell, their needs are assessed and met as far as practicable, and the health care policy is implemented.
- Parents/carers complete the contract and registration form at admission and provide information about any changes to their child's health needs as soon as is practicable.
- Medication is administered only if it is prescribed by the child's doctor.
- Parents'/carers' written permission is obtained before any medication is administered.
- Written information relating to the child's individual medication is given to the provision including any possible side effects of the medication.
- Smarties checks that any medication given conforms to the provision's insurance policy requirements.
- All adults in Smarties know who is responsible for administering medication at any time.
- In circumstances where technical or medical knowledge is required for specific medication to be administered to a child Smarties may arrange for a nominated person to be trained by a qualified health professional, prior to the admission of the child, and update the training as needed.
- Medicines are stored in their original container, with the original label intact and clearly displayed.

- Medicines are stored at the correct temperature, temperatures checked, and records kept.
- Medicines are returned to parents/carers after the prescribed period of treatment.
- All medication is inaccessible to children at all times and kept in a locked cabinet/fridge (immediate access is enabled as necessary).
- Medication that is found to be out-of-date is not administered.
- Written information about when the medication was last administered is obtained from the parent/carer.
- Medication is administered to a child only by a delegated and trained adult.
- The time and dosage of medicine given is recorded and witnessed by another designated adult/member of staff in the provision.
- The parent/carer is required to sign the record of administration of medication on the same day when they collect the child.
- Records relating to medication administered are kept in line with Smarties' confidentiality policy and retained in line with regulatory and insurance company requirements.

### **Asthma policy and procedure**

**Asthma** is a long-term condition that can cause a cough, wheezing and breathlessness. The severity of the symptoms varies from person to person. Asthma can be controlled well in most people most of the time. In the UK, 5.4 million people are currently receiving treatment for asthma. That is 1 in every 12 adults and 1 in every 11 children.

Asthma is caused by inflammation of the airways. This makes it difficult to breathe and causes wheezing and coughing. It may also make the chest feel tight.  
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/asthma/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

**It is the policy of Smarties to promote an effective partnership between all concerned to promote the safety, welfare and best interests of any child with asthma in our care.**

#### **We do this by:**

- Encouraging and supporting children with asthma to participate fully in activities.
- Ensuring children have immediate access to their reliever inhalers.
- Ensuring that parents/carers of children who develop asthma after they have started at Smarties are informed about this policy and given a copy.

**When a child with asthma attends the setting we discuss their needs with their parents/carers.**

**This includes:**

- Discussing the level or degree of the child's condition.
- Establishing how we can recognise when symptoms get worse – any triggers that the child is known to be sensitive to.
- Ensuring the child has immediate access to their reliever inhaler as prescribed, keeping it in an easily accessible place and making sure all relevant people - especially the child - know where to find it.
- Ensuring that written records are kept clearly detailing information of what medicine is to be taken, when and how often.
- Informing parents/carers that:
  - The inhaler must be prescribed for the child, labelled clearly with their full name.
  - It must not have passed its expiry date.
  - A record is kept each time a child takes their inhaler.
  - Medication left in the setting must be checked regularly and parents informed if and when replacements are needed.
- Asking parents/carers to bring a spare inhaler to be kept at our provision in case of an emergency.
- Keeping and using emergency contact details for next of kin but in the case of an emergency dial 999 (in line with our registration form).
- Making sure the person collecting the child is informed if the child has had to take their medicines and to sign the form (in line with our medication policy).
- Making sure that inhalers are always taken on our trips (in line with our outings policy).
- Parents/carers are also referred to our admissions and equality and inclusion policies and procedures.

This **medication and asthma** policy and procedure was passed for use in Smarties.

On: January 2024

By: Mrs. Shan Kenchington

Position: Responsible Individual

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