

## 7.11 (a) Action Plan for Asthma Policy

<b>Policy number:</b> 7.11 (a)
<b>Date last reviewed:</b> May 2024
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Child Care Team

This policy relates to	
National Quality Standards Early Childhood Education & Care	2.1 Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted. 2.1.2 Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented. 2.1.3 Healthy Lifestyle- Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child. 3.1.1 Outdoor and indoor spaces, building, fixture and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child. 3.2.1 Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child’s participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments 6.2.2 Effective partnerships support children’s access, inclusion and participation in the program.
Policy	3.3 (d) First Aid Policy 7.1 Incident illness, injury and trauma 7.11 Medical Conditions 7.22(a) Health Hygiene commitment

### Purpose

The service will facilitate effective care and health management of children with asthma and ensure that an Asthma action plan is in place for all children identified with this condition.

### Policy

An **Asthma Action Plan** outlines the day-to-day management of asthma. The service requires all children with asthma to have a current documented action plan.

The management of an asthma attack differs according to whether the child has previously been diagnosed with asthma.

Possible signs that a child is having difficulty breathing are as follows:

- Dry irritating, persistent cough that worsens with play;

- Abdominal pain;
- Tightness in the chest;
- Shortness of breath, which often shows as abdominal breathing (abdomen looks more swollen than usual);
- A wheeze (whistling sound) that can sometimes be heard when the child is breathing out.

A child may experience some or none of these symptoms. These symptoms may vary from child to child and from time to time with the same child. Some children may have a number of these symptoms while some may only have a cough or wheeze. If the educator notices any of these signs, they are to contact the parent and follow steps outlined on the child's Asthma Action Plan.

In the case of an emergency, it is acceptable to obtain verbal consent from a parent, or a registered medical practitioner or medical emergency services if the child's parent cannot be contacted. In the case of an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency, medication may be administered to a child without authorisation. In this circumstance, the child's parent and emergency services must be contacted as soon as possible.

#### **Asthma First Aid Procedure Responsibility- Educator**

- (1) Sit the child upright, be calm and reassuring, do not leave the child alone;
- (2) Give medication;
  - a. Shake the blue reliever;
  - b. Use a spacer if you have one;
  - c. Give 4 separate puffs into the spacer;
  - d. Get the child to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff
- (3) Wait 4 minutes;
  - a. If no improvement repeat step 2;
  - b. If still no improvement call emergency assistance (Dial 000);
    - Tell the operator the person is having an asthma attack;
    - Continue giving 4 puffs every 4 minutes while you wait for emergency assistance.

***Call emergency assistance (000) immediately if the person's asthma becomes suddenly worse at any time.***

Educators are required to obtain current training in Asthma Management every 3 years. Approved Asthma Management Training courses must carry the appropriate code (available at <http://acecqa.gov.au/>).

### **Self-Administration of Medication**

School age children with parent's permission are able to self-administer asthma medication with the support of the educator.

A child over preschool age may self-administer medication under the following circumstances:

- Written authorisation is provided by a person with the authority to consent to the administration of medication;
- The medical conditions policy of the service includes practice for self-administration of medication.

Regulations allow an exception to authorisation requirements where there is anaphylaxis or asthma emergency:

- 94 (2) If medication is administered under this regulation, the approved provider or nominated supervisor of the education and care service or family day care educator must ensure that the following are notified as soon as practicable (a) parent of the child (b) emergency services.

### Relevant Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 Section 167, 173  
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011  
51(1)(a) Conditions on service approval (safety, health and wellbeing of children)  
85 incidents, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures  
86 Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness  
87 incidents, injury, trauma and illness record  
89 First Aid Kits  
90 Medical conditions policy  
91 Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents  
92 Medication record  
93 Administration of Medication  
94 Exception to authorisation requirement –anaphylaxis or asthma emergency  
95 Procedure for administration of medication  
96 Self administration of medication  
136 First Aid Qualifications  
162 Health information to be kept in enrolment record  
168 Education and care service must have policies and procedures  
169 Additional policies and procedures- Family day care  
170 Policies and procedures to be followed  
171 Policies and procedures to be followed  
172 Notification of change to policies or procedures  
173 (2) (f) prescribed information to be displayed,. For the purpose of section 172 (f) of the Law, the following matter and information are prescribed-  
(f) if applicable-  
(ii) in the case of a family day care residence or approved family day care venue, a notice stating that a child who has been diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis-  
(A) Is enrolled at the family day care service; and  
(B) (B) attend the family day care residence or family day care venue.  
177 Prescribed enrolments and other documents to be kept by approved provider  
178 Prescribed enrolments and other documents to be kept by family day care educator

National Quality Framework 2011

Queensland Government Health Act 1937 (reprinted July 2010) National Standard 2.1

[www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealA37.pdf](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealA37.pdf)

### Key Resources

Department of Education and Children Services, South Australia

[www.decs.sa.gov.au/speced2/files/pages/chess/hsp/Resource%20Index/Medication\\_management\\_May.pdf](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/speced2/files/pages/chess/hsp/Resource%20Index/Medication_management_May.pdf)

Family Day Care Australia

[www.fdca.com.au](http://www.fdca.com.au)

Guide to the National Quality Framework –<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about/guide>

National Asthma Council Australia- <https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/>

## Key Resources

Asthma Foundation: *Asthma Policy for Children's Services*

[www.asthmaqld.org.au](http://www.asthmaqld.org.au)

[http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/asthma\\_in\\_childcare.aspx](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/asthma_in_childcare.aspx)

[http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/Asthma\\_and\\_children.aspx](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/Asthma_and_children.aspx)

<http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/resources.aspx>

Asthma Australia: *Asthma and Under 5's for Parents and Carers including First Aid*

[http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/uploadedFiles/Content/About\\_Asthma\\_2/Resources](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/uploadedFiles/Content/About_Asthma_2/Resources)

[/AA%20Policy%20Document%200113%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/uploadedFiles/Content/About_Asthma_2/Resources/AA%20Policy%20Document%200113%20FINAL.pdf)

National Asthma Council Australia: *First Aid*

<http://www.nationalasthma.org.au/uploads/content/22-NAC-First-Aid-for-Asthma-ChartKids->

[FINAL.pdf](http://www.nationalasthma.org.au/uploads/content/22-NAC-First-Aid-for-Asthma-ChartKids-FINAL.pdf)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing : *My Asthma Action Plan*

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/C8C588345A5750D7CA>

[257BF00021DFAF/\\$File/asplan06.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/C8C588345A5750D7CA257BF00021DFAF/$File/asplan06.pdf)

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pq-asthmaindex.htm>

NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service: Children's Asthma Information Pack

[http://www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/publicationsandresources/pdf/copy\\_of\\_topics/asthma#b\\_start=0&c7=pdf](http://www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/publicationsandresources/pdf/copy_of_topics/asthma#b_start=0&c7=pdf)

Asthma and Under 5's – Guidelines for Childcare services, Kindergartens & Preschools

Asthma in the Under 5's – P22 Jigsaw Spring 2004 Asthma

Foundation WA: *Towards the Low Allergen Home*

[www.asthmawa.org.au/About-Asthma/Asthma-Factsheets/Towards-the-Low-AllergenHome/](http://www.asthmawa.org.au/About-Asthma/Asthma-Factsheets/Towards-the-Low-AllergenHome/)