

DEALING WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

Policy Number	P-Q2-M008	Version Number	4.00
Drafted by	Director of Education	Approved Date: Review Date:	April 2025 April 2026
Responsibility	The Board of Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre Association (Inc.)		
Related Service Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of First Aid Policy • Administration of Medication Policy • Anaphylaxis Policy • Asthma Policy • Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy • Diabetes Policy • Epilepsy Policy • Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy • Privacy and Confidentiality Policy • Supervision of Children Policy 		
Legislation and Standards	<p>Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 173 • Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 90, 91, 96 • Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) • National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety • National Quality Standard, Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership • Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic) • Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic) • Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/ • Commonwealth Legislation – ComLaw: https://www.legislation.gov.au/ • Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (Vic) 		
Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (6th edition, 2024) National Health and Medical Research Council: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/staying-healthy-guidelines • Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: NQF-Resource-02-Guide-to-ECS-Law-Regs.pdf (acecqa.gov.au) 		

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AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre Board of Governance on 15th August 2016.

PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines for Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre to ensure that:

- clear procedures exist to support the health, wellbeing and inclusion of all children enrolled at the service
- service practices support the enrolment of children and families with specific health care requirements.

PRINCIPLES

Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre is committed to recognising the importance of providing a safe environment for children with specific medical and health care requirements through implementing and maintaining effective hygiene practices. This will be achieved through:

- fulfilling the service's duty of care requirement under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*, the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* to ensure that those involved in the programs and activities of Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre are protected from harm
- informing educators, staff, volunteers, children and families of the importance of adhering to the *Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy* to maintain a safe environment for all users, and communicating the shared responsibility between all involved in the operation of the service
- ensuring that educators have the skills and expertise necessary to support the inclusion of children with additional health needs.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Persons with Management or Control, Nominated Supervisor, Persons in Day to Day Charge, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre, including during offsite excursions and activities.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Asthma Policy*
- *Diabetes Policy*
- *Epilepsy Policy*

DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

Communication plan: A plan that forms part of the policy and outlines how the service will communicate with parents/guardians and staff in relation to the policy. The communication plan also describes how parents/guardians and staff will be informed about risk minimisation plans and emergency procedures to be followed when a child diagnosed as at risk of any medical condition such as anaphylaxis is enrolled at the service.

Hygiene: The principle of maintaining health and the practices put in place to achieve this.

Medical condition: In accordance with the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, the term medical condition includes asthma, diabetes or a diagnosis that a child is at risk of anaphylaxis, and the management of such conditions.

Medical management plan: A document that has been prepared and signed by a doctor that describes symptoms, causes, clear instructions on action and treatment for the child's specific medical condition, and includes the child's name and a photograph of the child. An example of this is the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan.

Risk minimisation: The implementation of a range of strategies to reduce the risk of an adverse effect from the mismanagement of a specific medical condition at the service.

Risk minimisation plan: A service-specific plan that details each child's medical condition, and identifies the risks of the medical condition and practical strategies to minimise those risks, and who is responsible for implementing the strategies. The risk minimisation plan should be developed by families of children with specific medical conditions that require medical management plans, in consultation with staff at the service upon enrolment or diagnosis of the condition.

BACKGROUND

An approved service must have a policy for managing medical conditions that includes the practices to be followed:

- in the management of medical conditions
- when parents are required to provide a medical management plan if an enrolled child has a specific health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition
- when developing a risk minimisation plan in consultation with the child's parents/guardians
- when developing a communication plan for staff members and parents/guardians.

Staff members and volunteers must be informed about the practices to be followed. If a child enrolled at the service has a specific health care need, allergy or other relevant medical condition, parents/guardians must be provided with a copy of this and other relevant policies.

Medication and medical procedures can only be administered to a child:

- with written authorisation from the parent/guardian or a person named in the child's enrolment record as authorised to consent to administration of medication (Regulation 92(3)(b))
- with two adults in attendance, one of whom must be an educator. One adult will be responsible for the administration and the other adult will witness the procedure
- if the medication is in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration.

Refer to the *Administration of Medication Policy* for more information.

Staff may need additional information from a medical practitioner where the child requires:

- multiple medications simultaneously
- a specific medical procedure to be followed.

If a child with a chronic illness or medical condition that requires invasive clinical procedures or support is accepted by the service, it is vital that prior arrangements are negotiated with the parent/guardian, authorised nominees or appropriate health care workers to prepare for the event that the child will require a procedure while in attendance at the service. Parents/guardians and the service should liaise with either the child's medical practitioner or other appropriate service providers to establish such an arrangement. Arrangements must be formalised following enrolment and prior to the child commencing at the service.

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Approved Provider (Board of Governance) is responsible for:

The Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre Board is the Approved Provider and has ultimate responsibility for the management and control of the service.

The Board delegates operational responsibility and day to day management of the service to the Nominated Supervisor and monitors the performance of the organisation, including responsibilities contained in this policy, through regular reporting and by ensuring appropriate resources are available to carry out the organisation's functions.

The Nominated Supervisor/Persons in Day to Day charge are responsible for:

- ensuring that all staff and volunteers are provided with a copy of this policy and have a clear understanding of the procedures and practices outlined within
- developing and implementing a communication plan and encouraging ongoing communication between parents/guardians and staff regarding the current status of the child's specific health care need, allergy or other relevant medical condition, this policy and its implementation

- ensuring educators/staff receive regular training in managing the specific health care needs of children at the service including asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy and other medical conditions. This includes training in the management of specific procedures that are required to be carried out for the child's wellbeing
- ensuring at least one educator/staff member who has current accredited training in emergency management requirements for specific medical conditions is in attendance and immediately available at all times that children are being educated and cared for by the service
- establishing robust induction procedures that include the provision of information regarding the implementation of the practices outlined in this policy
- ensuring families and educators/staff understand and acknowledge each other's responsibilities under these guidelines
- ensuring families provide information on their child's health, medications, allergies, their medical practitioner's name, address and phone number, emergency contact names and phone numbers, and a medical management plan signed by their medical practitioner, following enrolment and prior to the child commencing at the service
- ensuring that a risk minimisation plan is developed for each child with specific medical conditions on enrolment or upon diagnosis, and that the plan is reviewed at least annually
- ensuring that parents/guardians who are enrolling a child with specific health care needs are provided with a copy of this and other relevant service policies
- following appropriate reporting procedures set out in the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy* in the event that a child is ill, or is involved in a medical emergency or an incident at the service that results in injury or trauma.
- implementing this policy at the service and ensuring that all educators/staff follow the policy and procedures set out within
- informing the Approved Provider of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy
- ensuring that the *AV How to Call Card* (refer to *Definitions*) is displayed near all telephones
- identifying specific training needs of educators/staff who work with children diagnosed with a medical condition, and ensuring, in consultation with the Approved Provider, that educators/staff access appropriate training
- ensuring children do not swap or share food, food utensils or food containers
- ensuring food preparation, food service and relief staff are informed of children and staff who have specific medical conditions or food allergies, the type of condition or allergies they have, and the service's procedures for dealing with emergencies involving allergies and anaphylaxis
- ensuring a copy of the child's medical management plan is visible and known to staff in the service. Prior to displaying the medical management plan, the Nominated Supervisor must explain to parents/guardians the need to display the plan for the purpose of the child's safety and obtain their consent (refer to *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*)
- ensuring educators and other staff follow each child's risk minimisation plan and medical management plan
- ensuring opportunities for a child to participate in any activity, exercise or excursion that is appropriate and in accordance with their risk minimisation plan
- providing information to the community about resources and support for managing specific medical conditions while respecting the privacy of families enrolled at the service
- administering medications as required, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Administration of Medication Policy*
- maintaining ongoing communication between educators/staff and parents/guardians in accordance with the strategies identified in the communication plan, to ensure current information is shared about specific medical conditions within the service.

Educators and other staff are responsible for:

- ensuring that children do not swap or share food, food utensils or food containers
- communicating any relevant information provided by parents/guardians regarding their child's medical condition to the Nominated Supervisor to ensure all information held by the service is current
- undertaking relevant training to assist with the management of specific medical conditions of children at the service
- being aware of individual requirements of children with specific medical conditions and following their risk minimisation plan and medical management plan
- monitoring signs and symptoms of specific medical conditions and communicating any concerns to the Nominated Supervisor
- adequately supervising all children, including those with specific medical conditions
- informing the Nominated Supervisor of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- informing the service of their child's medical conditions, if any, and informing the service of any specific requirements that their child may have in relation to their medical condition
- developing a risk minimisation plan with the Nominated Supervisor and/or other relevant staff members at the service
- providing a medical management plan signed by a medical practitioner, either on enrolment or immediately upon diagnosis of an ongoing medical condition. This medical management plan must include a current photo of the child and must clearly outline procedures to be followed by educators/staff in the event of an incident relating to the child's specific health care needs
- notifying the Nominated Supervisor of any changes to the status of their child's medical condition and providing a new medical management plan in accordance with these changes
- informing the Nominated Supervisor of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy by the service.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Nominated Supervisor will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

Relevant Forms/Documents
Management, Risk Minimisation & Communication Plan

Version History			
Date	Version	Author/s	Details
July 2014	1.00	Public officer	New policy
April 2016	2.00	Chief Executive Officer	Revision for updated format, document ID, related policies and relevant legislation and standards. Addition of definitions and evaluation.
January 2020	3.00	Director of Education	Policy reviewed and updated.
January 2022	4.00	Director of Education	Attachment I changed to updated Management plan, risk minimisation plan and communication plan – medical condition
February 2023	4.00	Director of Education	Policy reviewed and no updates made.
April 2024	4.00	Director of Education	Policy reviewed and no updates made.
April 2025	4.00	Director of Education	Policy reviewed and Staying Healthy 6 th Edition (2024) included in source links.

ATTACHMENT I Management Plan, Risk Minimisation Plan and Communication Plan – Medical Condition

MANAGEMENT PLAN – CHILD WITH MEDICAL CONDITION

Parent/guardian: Please complete the details below in order to assist educators to effectively manage the condition whilst your child is at care

Child's name and DOB	
Medical Condition	
Room and days attending	
Date plan completed	
Symptoms	
Triggers	(For example: eating certain food, using products containing certain foods, chemicals or other substances, temperature, dust, physical activity, exposure to certain animals or plants, mould, pollen, missed meals, etc)
Medication required	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes (Type and dosage to be administrated) _____
Action to take if symptoms present	Follow child's individual medical condition action plan or information provided

RISK MINIMISATION PLAN - POTENTIAL EXPOSURE STRATEGIES - CHILD WITH MEDICAL CONDITION

Risk	Strategy	Who is responsible?
Child developing symptoms or being exposed to triggers during program	All staff aware of child's individual medical conditions and action plan.	Staff

	Program and activities modified to ensure exposure to trigger/s kept to a minimal, such as: provide indoor/outdoor program to reduce exposure to cold air, environmental hazards and physical play during day.	
Other: please specify		

COMMUNICATION PLAN –

Practices to support the needs of a child diagnosed with a medical condition within the service:

- All staff are trained in first aid, including how to respond and provide a first aid response to infants and children in an emergency including asthmatic and anaphylactic emergencies.
- Child's action plan and photo displayed on the wall in child's room for all staff to reference
- Any medications required will be stored in a labelled medication bag within the child's room
- Educators modify program when necessary to support the health needs of each child (such as, provide indoor/outdoor program)
- Educators caring for child to observe and monitor health throughout day
- Expiry of any medication recorded on medical conditions register and parent/guardian notified one month when due to expire
- Educators to be responsible for transportation of medication/action plan when on excursions or leaving the site (evacuation)
- All educators to clean surfaces and resources regularly to sanitise environment in accordance with health and hygiene policies
- Effective hygiene practises promoted to all children by educators and followed by all educators – hand washing, sneezing, coughing
- Parent/Guardian to notify service of any changes to child's medical condition and management plan
- Further information and resources can be found in the service Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy.

Parent/guardian agreement:

I agree to these arrangements, including the display of our child's picture, name, medication held and location (if required), and brief description of the medical condition on a poster in all children's rooms and prominent places to alert all staff, volunteers and students.

I agree that the information on all forms and actions plans is correct and current and have provided relevant information for the Management Plan and have read the Risk Minimisation Plan and Communication Plan provided.

Parent/guardian (name and sign): _____ Date: _____

Educator acknowledgement:

I have read and understood the child's individual medical condition action plan, management plan and risk minimisation plan.

Bubup Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre



Educator Name and Sign:	Date read: