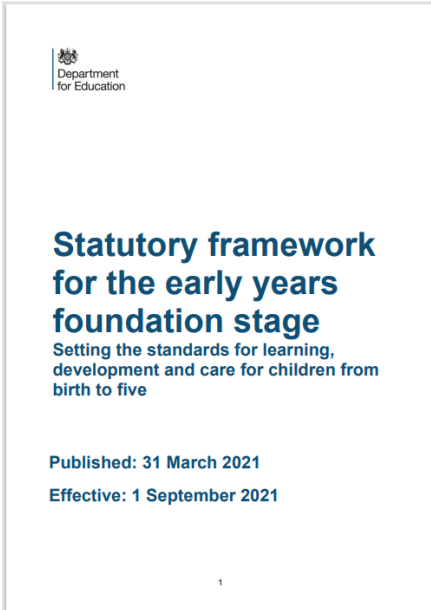


Prescribing over-the-counter (OTC) medicines in nurseries and schools

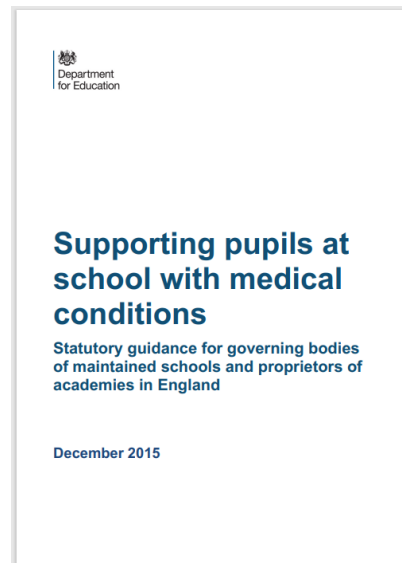


The BMA has produced [advice and support](#) for GP practices to help clarify the current position. They refer to The Department for Education document '[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)' which identifies current national standards for day care and childminding from birth to five. This document previously included the paragraph: '*Medicines should only be taken to a setting when this is essential, and settings should only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.*' This resulted in some parents making unnecessary appointments to seek a prescription for a non-prescription medicine so that it could be taken in nurseries or schools. **It has now been amended to refer to 'prescription medicines'**

'Prescription medicines must not be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist (medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor). Medicine (both prescription and non-prescription) must only be administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer'

The guidance above refers to children aged 5 and under. For older children the '[Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions](#)' guidelines apply and they also refer to prescribed medicines

*'schools should only accept **prescribed** medicines if these are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin, which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container'*



Non-prescription (or OTC) medication does not need a GP signature, authorisation, or prescription in order for a school, nursery, or childminder to give it.

Prescribing tip for information

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302

If you have any suggestions for future topics to cover in our prescribing tips, please contact Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net