

INTRODUCTION

BDCS is committed to a planned approach to the management of medical conditions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children at this service. Medical conditions including (but not limited to) asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes can be life threatening so BDCS must ensure that all staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to ensure all children receive the highest level of care.

OVERALL GOALS – What are we going to do?

BDCS will minimise the risks of medical conditions around children by:

1. Working with families of children with diagnosed medical conditions to develop a risk minimisation plan for their child
2. Ensuring that all staff are informed of all children with a diagnosed medical condition and the risk minimisation procedures for these
3. Providing all families with information, including the risk management plan, where a diagnosed medical condition is present in the service that may be impacted by the actions of others (e.g. advising families not to send in an allergen where there is an anaphylactic child)
4. Ensure that all staff have access to risk minimisation plans and are trained in the administration of emergency medication.

OVERALL STRATEGIES – How will it be done?

1. Families of children with a diagnosed medical condition will be given a copy of this policy
2. Parents will be informed that they are required to provide the service with a medical management plan for their child's condition.
3. Collaboration with families of children with diagnosed medical conditions will take place to develop a risk management plan including, but not limited to, the following areas:
 - Ensuring risks relating to the child's specific health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition are assessed and minimised
 - Where relevant, ensure that practices and procedures are developed and implemented in relation to safe handling, preparation, consumption and service of food.
 - Where relevant, ensuring families are aware of any known allergens or other risks to the child in relation to their diagnosed medical condition and that policies and procedures are in place to address these.
 - Ensuring all staff members can identify the child, the child's medical management plan and the location of any medications
4. BDCS will provide first aid training (including Asthma and Anaphylaxis training) to all permanent staff on a regular basis

MANAGEMENT OF PARTICULAR CONDITIONS

ASTHMA

As it is generally accepted that children under the age of 6 do not have the ability to recognise and manage their own asthma effectively, BDCS recognises the need to implement responsible asthma management strategies, including:

- Provision of Emergency Asthma Management Training to staff
- Providing an environment where the health of children with asthma is supported and they can participate in all activities to the best of their capabilities
- Raising awareness of asthma amongst those involved with the service
- Where a diagnosis of asthma is indicated, BDCS will request a copy of the child's asthma management plan from the family
- First Aid kits across the services (including those taken on excursions) will be stocked with Asthma reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin), a spacer and face mask, which at least one staff member is skilled in the administration of.
- Identification of children with asthma during the enrolment process and informing staff
- Providing families of children diagnosed with asthma with a copy of this policy and requesting from families a copy of the child's asthma management plan.
- Communicate with the family regarding the status of the child's health and any concerns families or staff may have regarding the child's health and their ability to participate fully in all activities
- Request that families ensure their child has an adequate supply of asthma medication and a spacer and that the medication forms have been completed.
- Where practical, encouraging children with asthma to seek their reliever medication when symptoms develop.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening condition that affects up to 5% of children aged 0-5. BDCS recognises the need to address anaphylaxis management within our services as will do so using the following measures:

- Ensuring that all permanent staff members are provided with anaphylaxis management training
- Conducting assessments of the potential for accidental exposure to allergens whilst child/ren at risk of anaphylaxis are in the care of the service and develop risk management plans accordingly
- Ensuring that all handbooks & relevant communications to families includes information on our anaphylaxis management procedures and the presence of child/ren at risk of anaphylaxis within the services.
- Ensuring that all staff members are aware of children attending the services that are at risk of anaphylaxis
- Requesting from parents a copy of the child's anaphylaxis management plan signed by the child's medical practitioner and ensuring that appropriate medication is provided and recorded appropriately.
- Encouraging ongoing communication between families and staff regarding the current status of the child's allergies.

- Displaying an Action Plan for Anaphylaxis poster in key locations within the service
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the location of adrenaline auto-injection devices and that it is easily accessible for staff members

In the event of a child showing symptoms of anaphylaxis, staff will take action in the following order:

- Call 000
- Commence first aid
- Contact the parent/carer
- If parents are unable to be reached, call listed contact person/s

Diabetes

BDCS recognises the need to facilitate effective care and health management of children who have diabetes, and the prevention and management of acute episodes of illness and medical emergencies.

We will aim to provide an environment in which children with disabilities can participate in all activities to the full extent of their capabilities through the following means:

- Ensuring that any child/ren diagnosed with diabetes is identified and staff are informed of their condition
- Ensuring that there is always a staff member with senior first aid training on duty
- Ensuring that families provide the service with testing kits and medication where required.
- Developing a diabetes action plan for each child in conjunction with the family and relevant medical practitioners.
- Informing staff as to symptoms, signs and treatment of low blood glucose levels
- Regular consultation with families as to the status of the child's health
- Catering for any dietary requirements

Links to National Quality Standard: 2.1.1

Policy Revision History

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Authorised By</i> | <i>Description of Amendments</i> | <i>Sections affected</i> |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan 2021 | P. Ritchie – GM | | |
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