

Gilmer Independent School District
Protocol for Authorization to Carry and Self-Administer
A Prescription Asthma Inhaler

The 77th Texas Legislature enacted House Bill 1688 which amended the Texas Education Code to entitle a student with asthma to possess and self-administer a prescription asthma inhaler while on school property or at a school related event. Each request for a student to carry and self-administer a prescription asthma inhaler will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and must be in full compliance with House Bill 1688 and Gilmer Independent School District policy.

The following protocols have been established in compliance with House Bill 1688 to allow students to self-manage their asthma and provide for the safety of all students:

- The student's parents/guardians will provide a written physician's order to include the student's name, diagnosis of asthma, the name and dose of the prescription asthma inhaler, frequency of use, and special precautions. The order must also state that it is medically necessary for the student to carry and self-administer the prescription asthma inhaler, and that the student is capable of doing so.
- The prescription asthma inhaler must have been prescribed for the student in possession of the inhaler as indicated by the prescription label.
- The parent/guardian must provide written consent for their child to possess and self-administer a prescription asthma inhaler while on school property or at a school-related event.
- The RN will prepare an Asthma Management Plan as part of the Individualized Health Plan for the student. This form will be signed by the nurse and parents. The parents will sign that they agree to comply with all GISD policies pertaining to prescription inhalers at school.
- The RN or school counselor will inform the student's teachers, coaches, extracurricular activity sponsors, and other district employees that the student may possess and self administer their prescription asthma inhaler. This will be done confidentially and only on a need-to-know basis.
- If prescribed, the student will use a spacer when self-administering the prescription asthma inhaler.
- If it is learned that the student demonstrated a lack of ability to properly use the prescription inhaler or is not complying with the physician's orders or district policies, the RN will notify those involved to assess and review the situation and make appropriate changes in the student's management plan.
- To ensure that a student always has access to an inhaler, a second inhaler should be kept in the school clinic. The inhaler will be used in the event that the inhaler usually carried by the student malfunctions, is depleted during the day, or if the student comes to school without their inhaler. If the student is in athletics or other extra-curricular activities, it is recommended that an inhaler be kept with those sponsors as well.

- If the student's parents/guardians do not wish to provide an additional inhaler for the school clinic, they must sign an acknowledgment that they were informed of the need to have an inhaler at the clinic and refused.
- Students will agree to meet with the nurse if after using their inhaler the desired effects are not obtained in the expected time frame.
- Students must express understanding that the inhaler is only for their personal use, and is not to be in possession of another student for any reason. They must also express understanding of the responsibilities and safety factors related to carrying and self-administering a prescription asthma inhaler.
- Students and parents/guardians understand that the student could face disciplinary consequences for carrying an inhaler and not complying with this protocol.
- If all protocols are not followed with all consents on file, the student must leave their inhaler in the school clinic.
- By signing this form, the student, parent/guardian, and RN indicate that they understand and agree to follow this protocol.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

RN: _____ Date: _____