



## **Medication and First Aid**

Foster Carers receive First Aid training which includes the management and administration of medication. Guidance is available to all carers in the agency's "A Guide to Medical Dos and Don'ts". In addition, all carers need to be aware of the following:

### **Aspirin**

Although Aspirin may be purchased 'over the counter', without prescription; it should not be given to children unless prescribed by a medical practitioner.

### **Home Remedies**

Home Remedies are medicines, suitable for children, which can be bought 'over the counter' without prescription, these include medication such as Paracetamol.

Other home remedies may only be given to a child with the consent of the parent or corporate parent (which should be recorded in the Placement Agreement/Placement Plan/Delegated Authority) or the child (if over 16) or having consulted the child's GP to ensure that there will be no adverse reactions.

Home remedies must be kept in a locked cabinet that is only accessible to the Foster Carers, unless a child is permitted to keep his/her own home remedies, in which case the arrangements for this must be set out in the Placement Agreement/Placement Plan.

Home remedies, other than Paracetamol, should only be given for a maximum of 48 hours. If the symptoms persist beyond that time the child should see a Medical Practitioner. However, if Paracetamol is given for 24 hours and the symptoms still persist, the child should see a Medical Practitioner before any further dosages are given.

Where children are not capable of administering home remedies to themselves, care must be taken to ensure they consume the product as required, in the presence of a Foster Carer.

### **First Aid**

A fully equipped First Aid box must be kept in the home and in each vehicle used to carry children. The Placement Manager must ensure that arrangements exist to keep First Aid boxes equipped.

Children may administer their own First Aid if they have a suitable First Aid certificate or are under the supervision of a certified carer.

If children are not deemed to be capable of carrying out First Aid by themselves or under supervision, a certified carer must administer it.

## **Medication Administration**

The following steps must be followed when administering medication:

- Check the medication to ensure that it is prescribed for the child checking the child's name, the name of the medication, and the dosage instructions are correct, and that the dosage has not already been administered
- Check that the medication is within date
- Establish how the medication is to be administered
- Record administration of the medicine within Foster Carer recordings (schedule 6 recordings) including the date, dose and frequency
- Record the refusal or non-administration of medicine including the reason why.

## **Receipt of Medicines**

All medicines brought into the home from whatever source, including medication given at the time of discharge from hospital, those prescribed in an acute situation, on a regular basis or those brought from another placement, should be recorded in the carer's log. The record should show:

- Name, strength and dosage of medicine
- Quantity received/number of doses.

## **Disposal of Medicines**

In order to ensure an audit trail of medicines which are disposed of, for instance when a child moves placement or no longer requires the treatment, a record should be made to confirm removal of the medication from the home. This record should include the following:

- Date of disposal/return to pharmacy
- Name and strength of medicine
- Quantity removed
- Name of the child for whom the medicine was prescribed/purchased.

## **Medical Emergencies**

All carers should be first aid trained to ensure they can respond appropriately in an emergency. If required, carers should apply first-aid procedures if it is safe to do so, and notify their Placement Manager as soon as possible. However, carers must not compromise or delay the process of getting medical help.

If there is a risk of serious harm or injury, or the carers are unable to manage the situation safely, the emergency services should be notified. Foster Carers should assess the situation and in a medical emergency, phone for medical advice and an ambulance. They should carry out first aid in line with their training while waiting for help to arrive. When medical help arrives, they should provide information relating to the patient and details of the first aid carried out.

All Foster Carers should be aware of the location of the two nearest public defibrillators to their home address. All carers can search for these details by viewing:

<https://www.heartsafe.org.uk/AED-Locations>

## Recording

AFA may need to notify the Regulatory Authority of serious illnesses or accident/injuries. Foster Carers need to make sure that they complete an incident report detailing all relevant information and this should be shared with the Placement Manager to allow them to liaise with the Agency's Safeguarding Lead or Duty Manager in order to complete relevant actions.

First Aid and a record of all medicines administered must be recorded in the daily or weekly recording, and also as a Schedule 6 log (please see recording guidance for carers). If advice is sought from a General Practitioner or Pharmacist, carers should include details of the discussions within the summary. If the child visits the GP/Hospital as the result of an accident or injury, it should be recorded in the carer's log and on the child's progress under the relevant appointment heading.

## Further information

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

Or call 111 for additional guidance and advice:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care-services/when-to-use-111/>

## Connected Policies or Guidance

Name of Policy / Guidance	Relevant for
Expectations of Foster Carers Behaviour	Foster Carers, Placement Managers and Senior staff
Foster Carers Handbook	Foster Carers and Placement Managers
Foster Carer's Recording Guidance	Foster Carers and Placement Managers
Safeguarding Policy	All staff and Foster Carers
Placement Managers Guidance	Placement Managers and Senior Managers
Management of Allegations Against Staff and Carers	Foster Carers and Placement Managers
Notification of Significant Events	Placement Managers and Senior Managers
A Guide to Medical Dos and Don'ts's	Foster Carers, Placement Managers and Senior staff

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