



Medication and First Aid

Foster Parents receive First Aid training which includes the management and administration of medication. Guidance is available to all Foster Parents in AFA's "A Guide to Medical Dos and Don'ts". Any medical treatment should be given with the consent of the legal parent. It is usual that when children first arrive at a foster home, some form of medical consent will be given, to allow Foster Parents to take appropriate steps to provide medical treatment for children. This issue should be considered as part of the 'Care Arrangement' (Placement) Planning Meeting and the Delegated Authority document. In addition, all Foster Parents need to be aware of the following:

First Aid

A fully equipped First Aid box must be kept in the home and in each vehicle used to transport children. The Fostering Social Worker 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 Foster Parent. If children are not deemed to be capable of carrying out First Aid by themselves or under supervision, a certified Foster Parent must administer it.

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 Care Arrangement/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 Parents, 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 Care Arrangement Plan. This must be discussed on an ongoing basis with the child's allocated Social Worker and the Fostering Social Worker so all are aware and the situation can be monitored. It should also be recorded clearly in relevant documents, such as the Health and Safety Checklist.

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 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 Parent.

Medication Administration

The following steps must be followed when administering medication:

- Check the medication to ensure that it is prescribed for the child checking their 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 Schedule 6 recordings on the child's CHARMS record, 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 that given at the time of discharge from hospital, those prescribed in an acute situation, on a regular basis or those brought from another foster home, should be recorded in the Foster Parent'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 home 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

If required, Foster Parents should apply first-aid procedures if it is safe to do so and notify their Fostering Social Worker as soon as possible. However, Foster Parents must not compromise or delay the process of seeking medical help.

Foster Parents should assess any situation arising and in a medical emergency, phone for medical advice and an ambulance. If there is a risk of serious harm or injury, or they are unable to manage the situation safely, the emergency services should be notified. Foster Parents 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 Parents should be aware of the location of the two nearest public defibrillators to their home address. These details can be searched by viewing:

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

Recording

AFA may need to notify the Regulatory Authority of serious illnesses (including serious infectious diseases) or accident/injuries. Foster Parents need to make sure that they complete an incident report detailing all relevant information and this should be shared with the Fostering Social Worker 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 Foster Parents).

If advice is sought from a General Practitioner or Pharmacist, Foster Parents 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 Foster Parent'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 Parents Behaviour	Foster Parents, Fostering Social Workers and Senior staff
Foster Parents Handbook	Foster Parents and Fostering Social Workers
Foster Parent's Recording Guidance	Foster Parents and Fostering Social Workers
Safeguarding Policy	All staff and Foster Parents
Fostering Social Workers Guidance	Fostering Social Workers and Senior Managers
Management of Allegations Against Staff and Foster Parents	Foster Parents and Fostering Social Workers
Notification of Significant Events	Fostering Social Workers and Senior Managers
A Guide to Medical Dos and Don'ts	Foster Parents, Fostering Social Workers and Senior staff

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