Injectable Medication Administration

A. Regulations
ORS 433.800-830
Programs to Treat Allergic Response or Hypoglycemia
ORS 433.805
Policy

It is the purpose of ORS 433.800 to 433.830 to provide a means of authorizing certain individuals, when a licensed health care professional is not immediately available, to administer lifesaving treatment to persons who have severe allergic responses to insect stings and other specific allergens and to persons who are experiencing severe hypoglycemia when other treatment has failed or cannot be initiated.

OAR 333-055-0000 to 0035
Purpose

The purpose of OAR 333-055-0000 to 333-055-0035 is to define the procedures for authorizing certain individuals, when a licensed health care professional is not immediately available, to administer epinephrine to persons who have severe allergic responses to insect stings or other allergens and glucagon to persons who are experiencing severe hypoglycemia when other treatment has failed or cannot be initiated, as well as to define the circumstances under which these rules shall apply.

OAR 851-047-0010
Definitions

(10) “Injectable Medication” means any medication administered by the intravenous, or subcutaneous route.
(22) “Tasks of Nursing Care” means procedures that require nursing education and a license as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse to person.

OAR 851-047-0030
Delegation of Special Tasks of Client Nursing Care

(11) The Registered Nurse may not delegate medications by the intramuscular route, except as provided by ORS 433.800 to 433.830, Programs to Treat Allergic Response or Hypoglycemia.
B. Overview

In general, medical procedures (i.e., administration of injectable medications) must be performed by a licensed health care provider. However, certain injectable medications (i.e., epinephrine and glucagon) may be administered by laypersons if they have successfully completed educational training under OAR 333-055-0000 to 333-055-0035 with an anticipated emergency.

C. Background/Rationale

In 1981, legislation was passed by the State of Oregon to provide a means of authorizing certain individuals to administer lifesaving treatment (epinephrine) to persons suffering severe insect sting reactions when a physician was not available. In 1989, the Legislature expanded the scope of the original statute by providing for the availability of the same assistance to persons having a severe allergic response to other allergens (i.e., foods, pollens, medications). The Severe Allergic Reaction Law required individuals to receive training known as the “Program to Treat Allergens” by a licensed health care provider. In 1997, the
Severe Allergic Reaction law was amended to include the administration of glucagon for treatment of severe hypoglycemia. The training protocols associated with the legislation were renamed “Programs to Treat Allergic Response or Hypoglycemia.”

D. Guidance

The applicable statutory provisions do not mandate schools to equip and train their staff to respond to severe allergic reactions or hypoglycemia. Instead, they require that training be made available for unlicensed persons to learn to recognize and treat the symptoms of severe allergic reaction or hypoglycemia. In addition, the law mandates that the Oregon Health Division provide the protocols for educational training upon request to schools or other interested parties.

E. Roles and Responsibilities

District Administration

Severe allergic reactions requiring epinephrine can occur in a wide variety of circumstances. Children who are prone to severe hypoglycemic reactions requiring glucagon (i.e., diabetes) have the potential for developing a reaction in any setting (i.e., school, sports activities, camp). Therefore, although this legislation is not mandated, it is advisable that districts take advantage of implementing the training for school staff to treat severe allergic response or hypoglycemia.

According to legislation dealing with “Programs to Treat Allergic Response or Hypoglycemia,” education training must be taught by a physician licensed under ORS chapter 677 or a nurse practitioner under ORS chapter 678 in order for trainees to practice in Oregon. The training may be conducted by a health care professional licensed under ORS chapter 678 as delegated by a supervising professional. Training for administration of epinephrine or glucagon administration under ORS 433.800-830 is referred to as “certification” training rather than under the delegation rules of nursing practice.

If the district does not have the services of a licensed registered nurse, provisions to implement severe allergic reaction or glucagon training would need to be made through contact with the local health department or with another health care provider licensed under ORS chapter 678.

The district should designate an adequate number of school staff authorized to administer epinephrine and glucagon. The number of designated school staff in each building is dependent on a variety of circumstances and should take into account absences of trained staff and the ability to respond to emergency
situations arising during curricular and extracurricular activities held after regular school hours and on or off district property.

**Educators**

Training shall be provided as required by law in accordance with approved protocols obtained from the Oregon Health Division. Staff designated to receive epinephrine and glucagon training must also receive bloodborne pathogen training according to requirements from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). It is advisable that staff trained to administer epinephrine and glucagon also hold a current first aid and CPR card.

**School Nurses**

The school nurse is responsible for assessing students with severe allergic reactions or hypoglycemia and developing appropriate student health management plans. According to the Nurse Practice Act in Oregon, a licensed registered nurse can implement delegation of special tasks of client/nursing care (i.e., injection of epinephrine or glucagon) by teaching unlicensed personnel under the guidelines of “Teaching the Performance of Tasks for an Anticipated Emergency” (OAR 851-047-0040). Therefore, the school nurse could implement staff training to administer emergency glucagon or epinephrine under the guidelines of delegation, or through the use of the “Programs to Treat Allergic Response or Hypoglycemia” (OAR 333-055-0000 through 0035). However, if the school nurse implements the training protocols developed by the Oregon Health Division, he/she would need to be delegated the authority to conduct the training by a supervising physician licensed under ORS chapter 677 or a nurse practitioner licensed under ORS chapter 678.

**Nutrition/Food Personnel**

If parents report to the school that their child has a known allergy to foods, it is essential that school staff and food personnel are informed in order to prevent the susceptible individual’s exposure to the allergen.

**Families**

In order to assure the health and well being of students who may experience severe allergic reactions or suffer severe hypoglycemia (i.e., diabetes), epinephrine and glucagon injections may be administered to students in emergency situations when a licensed health care professional is not immediately available. In the case of potential severe allergic responses, parents are responsible for notifying districts when students are known to have sensitivity to specific allergens.
All requests for the district to administer injectable medications should be made by the parent in writing. Requests must be accompanied by the physician’s order for the administration of epinephrine or glucagon. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide prescription doses of epinephrine and glucagon and to replenish supplies if medication has been used or expired. However, in the event of an emergency situation, a trained individual may obtain by prescription and administer lifesaving epinephrine treatment without written parental consent according to ORS 433.800-830.

F. Procedures

Availability of Doses of Epinephrine and Glucagon to Trained Persons

A person who has successfully completed the educational training described in ORS 433.815 for severe allergic responses may receive from any health care professional, with appropriate prescriptive privileges, a prescription for pre-measured doses of epinephrine. Therefore, trained school personnel may obtain doses of epinephrine to be used in a generic manner for any person exhibiting signs and symptoms of severe allergic response (anaphylaxis), in addition to administering doses prescribed specifically for individual students or school staff.

A person who has successfully completed educational training in the administration of glucagon as described in ORS 433.815 for hypoglycemia may receive, from the parent or guardian of a student, doses of glucagon prescribed by a health care professional. The designated trained person may possess and only administer glucagon to the student/person for whom the glucagon is prescribed.

Staff Development Needed

Designated school personnel must be advised when students have been identified as having a history of severe allergic response or hypoglycemia. Emergency protocols and health management plans, developed by a licensed health care provider, should be maintained and accessible to identified staff and emergency responders. Any training associated with managing emergency protocols should be implemented by an appropriate person (i.e., school nurse or other licensed health care provider).
G. Oregon Resources

Oregon Public Health Division  http://public.health.oregon.gov
Local County Health Departments  http://oregon.gov/dhs/ph/lhd/lhd.html
Oregon State Board of Nursing  http://www.osbn.state.or.us/
Oregon School Nurses Association  http://orschoolnurse.org/
State of Oregon Board of Pharmacy  http://www.pharmacy.state.or.us/
Oregon School Boards Association  http://www.osba.org/
Oregon Medical Board  http://www.oregon.gov/OMB/

H. National Resources

American Diabetes Association  http://www.diabetes.org/
The Food & Allergy Anaphylaxis Network  http://www.foodallergy.org/
MacGill Discount School Nurse Supplies (epi-trainer pen)  http://www.macgill.com/about.aspx

Revised March 2012