

ACCEPTANCE AND REFUSAL AUTHORISATION POLICY

Under the National Law and National Regulations, early childhood services are required to obtain written authorisation from parents/guardians for some circumstances, to ensure that the health, safety, wellbeing, and best interests of the child are met and upheld. An authorisation is given where a person who has legal responsibility for a child gives permission to another person to do something or to make a decision on that person's behalf. Authorisations are usually authenticated by a signature- either in written form or as an electronic signature. All authorisations and refusals are to be kept in the child's enrolment record.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.
2.2.3	Child Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
94	Exception to authorisation requirement- anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
96	Self-administration of medication
99	Children leaving the education and care service
102	Authorisation for excursions
157	Access for parents

160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider
161	Authorisation to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of Medication Policy Anaphylaxis Management Policy Arrival and Departure Policy Asthma Management Policy Child Protection Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Cyber Safety Policy	Epilepsy Management Policy Enrolment Policy Excursion Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Mobile Device Usage Policy Orientation of Families Policy Water Safety Policy
---	--

PURPOSE

To ensure that all educators, staff and volunteers of the Service are consistent in how authorisations are managed and what constitutes a correct authorisation and what does not, which consequently may lead to a refusal. Decisions around refusing an authorisation will be made on a case by case basis by the service in discussion with the Nominated Supervisor, Police or other authorities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to families, staff, management and visitors of the OSHC Service

IMPLEMENTATION

Our OSHC Service will ensure we comply with the current Education and Care Services National Regulations, which require parent or guardian authorisation to be provided in matters including:

- Administration of medication to children
- Self-administration of medication
- Administration of medical treatment, dental treatment, and general first aid treatment.
- Emergency Ambulance transportation
- Excursions including regular outings
- Incursion attendance
- Taking of photographs by people other than educators
- Water based activities

- Enrolment of children, including providing details of persons nominated to authorise consent for medical treatment, to collect children from the service, or trips outside the service premises
- Children leaving the premises in the care of someone other than a parent or guardian
- Children having access to the internet and/or an email account

MANAGEMENT WILL ENSURE THAT:

- the *Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy* is reviewed and maintained by the OSHC Service management and adhered to at all times by educators and staff
- all staff understand circumstances that may lead to refusal of an authorisation
- all staff follow the policies and procedures of our OSHC Service.
- all parents/guardians have completed the authorised person's section of their child's enrolment form including authorised nominees (refer to *Enrolment Policy*), and that the form is signed and dated before the child commences at the OSHC Service.
- permission forms for excursions are provided to the parent/guardian or authorised nominee prior to the excursion (refer to *Excursion Policy*).
- parent/guardians are provided with a copy of relevant policies for our Service or are aware of how they can be accessed
- attendance records are maintained for all children attending the OSHC Service.
- a written record of all visitors to the Service, including time of arrival and departure and reasons for visit is documented
- where a child requires medication (excluding Paracetamol) to be administered by educators/staff, that an *Administration of Medication Record* is completed, and authorisation provided by the parent/guardian or authorised nominee and included with the child's record (Refer to *Administration of Medication Policy*).
- where a child over preschool age, and is authorised by the parent or guardian to self-administer medication, this is recorded in the Medication Record
- educators/staff do not administer medication without the written authorisation of parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the enrolment record as authorised to consent to the medical treatment of the child, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency (refer to *Administration of Medication Policy, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy, Emergency and Evacuation Policy, Asthma Management Policy, Anaphylaxis Management Policy, Diabetes Management Policy, and Epilepsy Management Policy*)

- educators and staff allow a child to participate in excursions only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record is received and documented
- educators/staff allow a child to depart the Service only with:
 - a person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record; or
 - with a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee; or
 - leaves in accordance with the written authorisation of the parent; or authorised nominee; or
 - is taken on an excursion; or
 - in the case of a medical emergency or another emergency (Refer to *Arrival and Departure Policy* and *Emergency Evacuation Policy*).
- there are procedures in place if an inappropriate person, or a person who does not appear to be fit to take care of the child attempts to collect the child from the OSHC Service or poses a risk to the safety of children or staff (refer to *Arrival and Departure Policy*).

A NOMINATED SUPERVISOR / RESPONSIBLE PERSON WILL:

- follow the policies and procedures of the Service
- ensure documentation relating to authorisations contains:
 - the name of the child enrolled in the service
 - date
 - signature of the child’s parent/guardian and authorised nominee as named on the enrolment form
- keep all authorisations relating to children in their enrolment record
- exercise the right of refusal if written or verbal authorisations do not comply with National Regulations or Child Protection Legislation. If an authorisation is refused by the Service, it is best practice to document:
 - the details of the authorisation
 - why the authorisation was refused, and
 - actions taken by the service. For example: if the service refused an authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record to collect the child from the service as they were under the influence of alcohol, the action taken to ensure that the child was collected (Refer to *Refusal of Authorisation Record*).

- waive compliance where a child requires emergency medical treatment for conditions such as anaphylaxis or asthma. In accordance with National Regulations (R.93) the Service can administer medication in these circumstances without authorisation. If these situations occur Management will be required to contact the parent/guardian as soon as practicable after the medication has been administered and emergency services. Notification to the Regulatory Authority is required within 24 hours of a serious incident
- ensure that medication is not administered to a child or self-administered by a child without the authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised person, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency (refer to *Administration of Medication Policy, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy, Emergency and Evacuation Policy, Management of Asthma Policy, Management of Anaphylaxis Policy*).
- consult with parents/guardians and the child's health practitioner to determine the circumstances that the child could self-administer their medication as per their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis or Asthma Foundation Action Plan for Asthma
- determine where self-administered medication should be stored by the service (asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes medication must be stored in an easily accessible location)
- ensure a child only departs from the Service with:
 - a person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or
 - with a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee; or
 - leaves in accordance with the written authorisation of the parent; or authorised nominee; or
 - is taken on an excursion; or
 - in the case of a medical emergency or another emergency (Refer to *Arrival and Departure Policy and Emergency Evacuation Policy*).
- ensure a child is not taken outside the Service premises on an excursion except with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised person
- inform the family and Approved Provider when a written authorisation does not meet the requirements outlined in the Service's policies.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- follow the policies and procedures of the OSHC Service
- ensure that parents/guardians sign and date permission forms for excursions prior to the excursion being implemented

- allow a child to participate in an excursion only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee
- check that parents/guardians or an authorised nominee sign the attendance record as their child arrives and departs from the OSHC Service
- administer medication only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee as per the *Administration of Medication Record*, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma, anaphylaxis emergency
- allow a child over pre-school age to self-administer medication under the following circumstances:
 - a parent or guardian provides written authorisation with consent on the child's enrolment form - administration of medication.
 - medication is stored safely by an educator, who will provide it to the child when required
 - supervision is provided by an educator whilst the child is self-administering.
 - a recording is made in the medication record for the child that the medication has been self-administered
- allow a child to depart from the Service only with:
 - with a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee; or
 - leaves in accordance with the written authorisation of the parent; or authorised nominee; or
 - is taken on an excursion; or
 - in the case of a medical emergency or another emergency (Refer to *Arrival and Departure Policy* and *Emergency Evacuation Policy*).
- follow procedures if an inappropriate person attempts to collect a child from the Service and poses a risk to the safety of the children and staff (for example, an intoxicated person).
- inform the Approved Provider when a written authorisation does not meet the requirements outlined in Service's policies.

FAMILIES WILL:

- read and comply with the policies and procedures of the OSHC Service
- complete and sign the authorised nominee section of their child's enrolment form before their child commences at the Service
- ensure that changes to nominated authorised persons are provided to the Service in a timely manner
- advise nominated authorised persons that they will require photo identification (such as a driver's licence) in order to collect their child from the Service
- sign and date permission forms for excursions
- sign the attendance record as their child arrives and departs from the Service

- provide written authorisation on the *Administration of Medication Form* when their child requires medication to be administered by educators/staff, including signing and dating it for inclusion in the child's medication records
- provide a Medical Management Plan or Action Plan from their child’s health practitioner regarding circumstances by which the child could self-administer their medication (eg: Asthma inhaler)

AUTHORISATION REQUIREMENTS

Authorisation documents are required for the following situations and must have details recorded as specified:

<p>Administration of Medication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • <i>Administration of Medication Record</i> is signed by a parent or a person named in the child's enrolment record as authorised to consent to administration of medication • Authorisation is provided by a parent or guardian for the child to self-administer medication as per their Action Plan • Name of the medication to be administered • Clearly indicate the time and date the medication is to be administered • Dosage of the medication to be administered • Method of dosage (eg: oral or inhaled) • Whether the medication is to be self-administered (asthma, diabetes) • Period of authorisation (actual days and dates: from and to). • Date the authorisation is signed • Medication must be in its original container and bearing the correct child’s name • Medication is not past its expiry or use-by date • Medication is administered in accordance with any instructions attached to the medication or provided by a registered medical practitioner • A second person checks the signed <i>Administration of Medication Record</i>, checks the dosage of the medication, and witnesses its administration • The educator administering medication and witness must write their full name and sign the medication record • Details of the administration must be recorded in the medication record • Supervision is provided by an educator whilst a child is self-administering medication • A recording is made in the medication record for the child that the medication has been self-administered
--	---

<p>Medical treatment of the child including transportation by an ambulance service</p> <p>(Included and authorised initially as part of the child’s enrolment record):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Authorisation to seek medical treatment for the child from a registered medical practitioner, hospital or ambulance service • Authorisation for the transportation of the child by an ambulance service • Name, address and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner or medical service • Child's Medicare number • Name of the parent or guardian providing authorisation • Relationship to the child
---	---

<p>Emergency Medical Treatment</p> <p>(included and authorised initially as part of the child’s enrolment record or as updates during enrolment):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service is able to seek emergency medical assistance for a child as required (i.e. medical practitioner, ambulance or hospital) without seeking further authorisation from a parent or guardian in the case of an emergency, including for emergencies relating to medical conditions noted on the enrolment form.
--	--

<p>Collection of Children</p> <p>(included and authorised initially as part of the child’s enrolment record or as updated during enrolment):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Name of the parent or the guardian of the child or the authorised nominee on the enrolment form providing authorisation • Name of the person/s authorised by a parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record to collect the child from the premises • State relationship to the child of the persons authorised to collect the child from the premises • Signature of the person providing authorisation and date of authorisation
---	---

<p>Excursions (Including regular outings)</p>	<p>If the excursion is a regular outing, the authorisation is only required to be obtained once in a 12-month period, otherwise it must state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Date of the excursion (unless for a regular outing) • Reason for the excursion • Proposed destination for the excursion • Method of transport to be used • Route to be taken to and from the excursion • Period of time away from premise- include time leaving premise and time returning to premise • Proposed activities to be undertaken by the child during the excursion • Anticipated number of children likely to be attending the excursion • Ratio of Educators attending the excursion to the number of children attending the excursion • Number of staff members and any other adults who will accompany and supervise the children on the excursion (including parents, students, volunteers) • Statement that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the service • Name of the parent or guardian-providing authorisation • Relationship to the child • Signature of the person providing authorisation and date of authorisation • Details of any water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities (to be included in risk assessment). • Items that should be taken on the excursion
---	--

<p>Confirmation of Authorisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All authorisation forms received (including the initial enrolment form) are to be checked for completion • All authorisations (excluding the initial enrolment form) are checked to ensure that the authoriser (name and signature) is the nominated parent or guardian a person named on the enrolment form as having authority to authorise • If incomplete or inappropriately signed, the authorisation form should be returned to the parent or guardian for correction • Children will be suspended from any activity requiring authorisation until the appropriate form has been correctly completed and signed
---	--

SOURCE

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
 Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).
 Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2020).
 Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).