



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR SCHOOLS:

Data and Reporting for Emergency Stock Asthma Medication Programs

Asthma remains one of the most common chronic diseases among children, significantly impacting school attendance and performance. Implementing a stock asthma medication program is a significant step toward safeguarding the health of students with asthma. However, schools often face several barriers, including data management practices.

In 2023, the American Lung Association convened experts in asthma management in schools to discuss barriers to implementing stock asthma medication programs. Below are a few key strategies identified by the group for how schools can ensure that their programs are well-documented, compliant, and capable of providing critical care when needed.

Importance of Data and Reporting

Effective data collection and reporting are essential for the successful implementation of stock asthma medication programs in schools. Collecting accurate data enables schools to assess the effectiveness of their asthma medication programs, which is important for making informed adjustments and improving student health outcomes. Furthermore, well-documented programs can significantly influence funding decisions, as they provide tangible evidence of the program's impact, making it more likely to receive continued support from stakeholders and policymakers.

Maintaining detailed records also ensures compliance with state and federal health and safety regulations, underscoring the importance of robust reporting practices. Overall, the ability to track and report on program use not only supports the management of asthma emergencies but also contributes to the broader goal of enhancing health equity and safety in educational environments.

Barriers to Effective Data Collection and Reporting

- **Lack of Infrastructure.** Many schools lack the necessary systems for collecting, storing, and analyzing data efficiently.
- **Absence of Mandatory Reporting Requirements.** Without legal requirements, there is little motivation for schools to implement robust reporting procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING ARE ESSENTIAL FOR:

- ASSESSING PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS
- INFLUENCING FUNDING DECISIONS
- ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS
- ENHANCING HEALTH EQUITY AND SAFETY IN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS



- **Resource Constraints.** Schools often face limitations in terms of time, funding, and personnel dedicated to data management.
- **Complex Notification Processes.** The need to notify multiple parties can complicate the reporting process, increasing the workload on school staff.

Solutions and Best Practices

Step 1: Establishing Infrastructure

- Implement a user-friendly digital system for data entry and management to streamline the process and ensure data accuracy.
- Use cloud-based services or secure servers to store data, making it easily accessible for authorized personnel.

Step 2: Standardizing Procedures

- Develop and distribute Standard Operating Procedures that detail the steps for data collection, storage, and reporting. Include templates for ease of use.
- Train school staff on the importance of data management and the use of reporting tools and systems. The data may be easiest collected and reported by the staff person who manages the stock asthma medication program. However, schools should designate this responsibility clearly in their SOPs and ensure multiple staff members are trained in the data collection and reporting procedures.

Sample Data Collection Form:

Student ID: _____
Date of Incident: ___/___/___
Time of Incident: ___:___ AM/PM
Symptoms Observed: [] Coughing [] Wheezing [] Shortness of breath [] Other: _____
Medication Administered: [] Albuterol [] Other: _____
Dosage: _____
Administered by: _____
Outcome: [] Symptoms resolved [] 911 called [] Other: _____
Parent/Guardian Notified: [] Yes [] No Time: ___:___ AM/PM
Follow-up Required: [] Yes [] No
Notes: _____



Step 3: Advocating for Regulatory Support

- Engage with local and state education departments to advocate for mandatory reporting laws and the benefits they bring to school health programs.
- Partner with local health departments or State Boards of Education to support data collection and analysis efforts.

Step 4: Simplifying Notification Processes

- Implement an automated alert system that notifies required parties when data is updated or when an emergency use of medication is recorded.
- Establish a centralized point of contact within the school or district for all asthma medication-related reporting.

Key Metrics to Track

1. Number of stock medication administrations
2. Reasons for medication use (e.g., asthma attack, allergic reaction)
3. Outcomes of medication administration
4. Time between symptom onset and medication administration
5. Number of 911 calls or hospital transfers
6. Staff training completion rates
7. Medication inventory and expiration dates

Implementation Timeline

Month	Action Items
1-2	Assess current data management practices
3-4	Develop or adopt data collection tools
5-6	Train staff on new procedures
7-8	Implement new data collection system
9-10	Review and refine processes
11-12	Prepare annual report and plan for next year



Troubleshooting Guide

Problem	Solution
Low staff compliance with data entry	Provide refresher training; simplify data entry process
Data discrepancies	Implement double-check system; use automated data validation
Difficulty generating reports	Create report templates; offer training on report generation
Privacy concerns	Review and update data privacy procedures; consult with legal experts

Conclusion

Robust data collection and reporting are vital for the success of stock asthma medication programs in schools. By addressing common barriers and implementing strategic solutions, schools can enhance their capacity to manage asthma emergencies effectively and improve health equity outcomes.

Resources

- Visit the [Asthma Medication in Schools](#) page on Lung.org to find information about your state law and access resources.
- Participate in the American Lung Association's [Stock Asthma Medication: Implementation Guidance for Schools](#) course.
- Download the American Lung Association's [Stock Asthma Medication Toolkit](#) or the [AAAAI Stock Inhaler Toolkit for Schools](#).

For more information on management asthma in schools, please visit [Lung.org/asthma-in-schools](https://www.lung.org/asthma-in-schools).

This document serves as a starting point for implementing a Stock Asthma Medication Program in schools. It is intended to provide general guidance and should not be considered as legal or medical advice. Always consult with healthcare professionals and legal advisors to tailor the program to your school's specific needs and ensure compliance with local and state regulations.