The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Early Education and Care

POLICY	
Individualized Health Care Plans	**Applicability: All Licensed and Funded Child Care Programs**
Effective Date: October 29, 2010 **Updated: June 30, 2022**	

BACKGROUND

Comprehensive, individualized child care begins with planning and preparation, especially for children with chronic health care needs. It is critical for programs to have a plan that clearly describes what needs to be done, when, and by whom to respond to the child's actual and potential health care needs. Good planning is informed by the child's parents and health care provider, and often includes training and consultation for program staff.

POLICY STATEMENT

The licensee must maintain as part of a child's record, an up-to-date individualized health care plan for care for each child with a chronic medical condition which has been diagnosed by a licensed health care practitioner. This plan is used to outline the child's medical needs and how they should be handled by the program.

An individualized health care plan must include the following:

- The child's name, age, and assigned classroom, if applicable.
- A description of the child's medical condition and its symptoms.
- Instructions for any medical treatment that may be necessary while the child is in care, including the name of the staff person who will be administering the child's treatment while the child attends the program, and identification of any potential side effects of the treatment.
    - Program administrators should use the child's individualized health care plan to identify what specific training and supervision must be available for educators administering the child's treatment plan.
- Explanation of the potential consequences to the child's health if the treatment is not administered.
- Name and contact information of the child's licensed health care practitioner

A program may provide the EEC Individual Health Care Plan form (attached below) to the family to have their child's physician complete or a program may accept equivalent physician's forms (i.e. asthma action plans, diabetes action plans, IEP *with* medical content) as long as those forms contain the same information that would be provided on the EEC form.

A current copy of the individualized health care plan must be maintained in the child's file. It is recommended that a copy of the plan also be in the child's classroom, on field trips, and with the child outdoors, along with any rescue medication, if applicable.

There must be one person trained in the implementation of a child's individualized health care plan whenever the child is in the care of the program[1].

Individualized health care plans must be kept confidential and should be shared only with those program staff who might need to deal with an emergency involving the child.

Individualized health care plans shall be valid for one year, unless withdrawn sooner, and must be renewed annually and following any change to the child's condition for administration of medication and/or treatment to continue.

Please note: Programs must maintain current copies of all required parental consents for medication administration and emergency medical treatment, as required by 606 CMR 7.04(7)(a)4 and 606 CMR 7.11(1) and (2). See also Compliance Requirements for Center-Based Funded Programs 8.13(2)(a)4 and 8.03(3)(b-c). Copies of any applicable written consent forms from the child's parent(s) must be stored with the child's individualized health care plan.

EEC *strongly* recommends that, upon enrollment and re-enrollment, the program talks to parents about their child's individual health care needs.

When is an individualized health care plan required?

A licensee must have an individualized health care plan for any child who has been diagnosed with a chronic medical condition, including but not limited to a condition that may require an emergency response or ongoing, long-term administration of health care procedures. Examples of common conditions that require an individualized health care plan include, but are not limited to:

- asthma
- epilepsy
- diabetes
- serious allergies
- anaphylaxis
- physical disabilities
- ADD/ADHD

For additional guidance and resources, please visit https://www.mass.gov/lists/health-and-safety-in-childcare-resources-for-child-care-health-consultants

AUTHORITY

606 CMR 7.11(3)(a)(c): *Individual Health Care Plans. The licensee must maintain as part of a child's record, an individual health care plan for each child with a chronic medical condition, which has been diagnosed by a licensed health care practitioner. The plan must describe the chronic condition, its symptoms, any medical treatment that may be necessary while the child is in care, the potential side effects of that treatment, and the potential consequences to the child's health if the treatment is not administered.*

See also ***Compliance Requirements for Center-Based Funded Programs 8.13(2)(a)8(d).***

[1] All staff who administer medication of any kind must be trained in medication administration, as required by 7.11(1)(b)2.

EEC Individual Health Care Plan Form

Name of child: Date of Birth:
Name of chronic health care condition:
Description of chronic health care condition:
Symptoms:
Medical treatment necessary while at the program:
Who has been trained and will be administering this treatment while the child is at the program:
Potential side effects of treatment:
Potential consequences if treatment is not administered:
(Optional) Other recommendations (e.g., further tests, treatments, mitigating measures, accommodations required to allow for the child's full participation, etc.)

Name and Phone Number of Licensed Health Care Practitioner (please print):_____

Parental/Guardian Signature: _____Date:_____

Program Administrator Signature: _____ Date:_____

For Older Children ONLY (9+ years of age)

In accordance with 606 CMR 7.11(3)(b-c) and with written parental consent and authorization of a licensed health care practitioner, this Individual Health Care Plan permits older school age children to carry their own inhaler and/or epinephrine auto-injector and use them as needed without the direct supervision of an educator.

The educator is aware of the contents and requirements of the child's Individual Health Care Plan specifying how the inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector will be kept secure from access by other children in the program. Whenever an Individual Health Care Plan provides for a child to carry his or her own medication, the licensee must maintain on-site a back-up supply of the medication for use as needed.

Age of child: _____ Date of birth: _____ Back-up medication received? YES NO

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Program Administrator's Signature: _____Date: _____