



## **POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED ALLERGIC REACTIONS**

### **1. Policy Objective**

The intention of this policy is to set out the procedure for how an allergic reaction related to any medication taken by pupils within Epsom College in Malaysia (“the College”) will be managed. This may be both medication provided by the College Medical Centre and brought by the pupil from home.

### **2. Definition of an allergic reaction:**

An allergic reaction occurs when the immune system overreacts to a harmless substance known as an allergen. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include rash, itchiness, watery eyes, abdominal cramps or pain, swelling and in worst case scenarios leading to difficulty in breathing and unconsciousness.

### **3. Administration of Over the Counter (OTC) Medication**

The College has a policy that permits the administration of OTC medication, provided there is a written parental authorisation allowing the College nurse to serve them. The signed authorisation form is then passed to the College nurse who will keep the document in the pupil’s confidential medical folder. Each time medication is served to a pupil in need, the administration is logged in the pupil’s record.

### **4. In the event a pupil experiences an allergic reaction to any of the OTC drugs, the College has the responsibility to:**

#### **a) Assess the condition of the pupil.**

In doing so, the following steps are to be undertaken:

- Vital signs are to be recorded i.e. Blood Pressure, Pulse and Temperature.
- Checks to be made for difficulty in breathing.

- The pupil should be placed in an upright position to open his/her airways to aid normal breathing.
- Oxygen (SPO2) level to be monitored. It has to be 96% and higher in room air.
- Where swelling is present, an ice pack should be applied to the site.
- Antihistamine should be served to reduce further reaction.
- Pupil is to be sent to the nearest hospital i.e. Nilai Medical Centre.
- Details of the reaction, and all subsequent treatment provided in relation to the allergy, are to be recorded in the pupil's Medical Records

**b) Arrange transportation of the pupil to Nilai Medical Centre**

- Transportation for a drug allergy will depend on the severity of the condition of the pupil.
- If the pupil is stable, the nurse will make arrangements for the pupil to be taken to Nilai Medical Centre, accompanied by a nurse, if possible, or otherwise by a member of the respective House team; parents of day pupils will be contacted to either meet at the College or at Nilai Medical Centre.
- If the pupil's condition is serious, an ambulance will be called from Nilai medical to fetch the pupil.
- Whichever way, the pupil will be taken to Nilai Medical Centre.

**c) Provide relevant information to the Medical staff at Nilai Medical Centre.**

This includes:

- The name of the medication that was administered.
- The dosage that was administered.
- The route of administration i.e. Either Oral or Topical.
- The number of days the medication was given, if so.
- The reason why the medication was needed.

**d) Communicate details of pupil wellbeing, treatment and allergy status**

This includes:

- Contacting parents/guardians of pupil concerned as soon as possible, with updates given periodically either via phone or email.
- Contacting the pupil's HMM/Head of Prep School to ensure they are aware of the pupil's condition and allergy.
- Updating the Pupil Allergy List and alerting all staff to the change in the pupil's allergy status.