

Storage of Medication

Child Care Learning Centers: 591-1-1-.20(4) – Medications shall be kept in a locked storage cabinet or container which is not accessible to the children and stored separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons. Medications requiring refrigeration shall be placed in a leakproof container in a refrigerator that is not accessible to the children.

Family Child Care Learning Homes: 290-2-3-.11(1)(d) – ...All medications shall be stored as authorized by Georgia law or in accordance with the prescription or label instructions and kept in places that are inaccessible to children...

Rule Type: **Core Rule**

Intent of the Rule

To protect the health and safety of children by providing safe storage of medication.

Clarification

Child-resistant safety packaging has been shown to significantly decrease poison exposure incidents involving young children. It is not necessary to lock a container that is clearly inaccessible to children, such as a container placed on a high shelf out of children's reach. Additional measures that may be necessary to lock refrigerators that are accessible to children include, but are not limited to, one of the following:

- Place a lock on the door handle of the refrigerator.
- Wrap a rubber strap or Velcro strip around any small (compact model) refrigerator. This strap or strip should fit tightly enough around the refrigerator so that a child could not insert their head between the strap/strip and the refrigerator.
- Place and secure a small refrigerator on counter space that is out of children's reach and not in the diapering area.

Indicators

- ✓ Child care program staff must store all medications in a location inaccessible to children.
 - TIP: Advise staff in each classroom to check children's book bags, diaper bags, etc. for medications as children arrive for care each day. If medications are found, they should be removed and appropriately stored.
 - Recommendation: Consider storing all medication in a centralized location (e.g., director's office, kitchen, etc.) for easy access to staff who administer medication.
- ✓ Child care programs must store all medications in a location separate from cleaning chemicals, supplies or poisons.
 - Note: Some cleaning chemicals, supplies, and poisons emit toxic fumes that could render medications ineffective or even harmful when ingested.
 - Reminder: It is important to remember that where medication is stored can affect its potency and safety.

- ✓ Child care programs must only accept medications in leakproof containers.
 - Note: A leakproof container means that the container should be covered or enclosed to prevent leakage.
 - Reminder: The original medication bottle is acceptable provided the cap is tightly secured to prevent leakage.
 - Recommendation: Have a system in place for staff to check all medication containers to ensure that lids are tightly sealed to prevent leaks and spills.

Resources:

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Edition

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org>