

# Current Guidance for Schools



**Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools**  
**March 2015**

[www.gov.uk - Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools](http://www.gov.uk - Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools)



# GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALERS IN SCHOOLS MARCH 2015

## About this guidance:

- ^ The Children and Families Act 2014 requires governing bodies of English schools to make arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions. The Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 allows schools to obtain, without a prescription, salbutamol inhalers, if they wish, for use in emergencies

## Applies to:

- ^ All primary & secondary Schools in the UK (this guidance is non-statutory)

## Provided to assist and guide:

- ^ Schools, school governors, etc.
- ^ Pharmacy
- ^ Parents / carers
- ^ Pupils



# Main Content Covered

## The document contains non-statutory advice on:

- ^ Recognising an asthma attack and what to do in the event of an attack
- ^ Arrangements for the supply, storage, care and disposal of salbutamol inhalers
- ^ Pupils who can use an inhaler
- ^ Responding to asthma symptoms and an asthma attack
- ^ Staff responsibilities
- ^ Useful links
- ^ Letter template to obtain a salbutamol inhaler



# Key Points

- ^ The guidance should be read in conjunction with '*supporting pupils at school with medical conditions*' statutory guidance
- ^ All primary and secondary schools including independent schools in the UK can purchase emergency salbutamol inhalers without the need for a prescription for use in emergencies
- ^ The emergency salbutamol inhaler is for use by pupils should their own device not be immediately available or not working
- ^ The emergency salbutamol inhaler can be used by children who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed a reliever inhaler or who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler
- ^ The emergency inhaler can only be used where written parental consent for use of the inhaler has been given
- ^ All information should be recorded in a child's individual healthcare plan



# Afterword

## *DOH Guidance on the use of emergency inhalers in schools (2015)*

Keeping an inhaler for emergency use will have many benefits. It could prevent an unnecessary and traumatic trip to hospital for a child, and potentially save their life. Parents are likely to have greater peace of mind about sending their child to school. Having a protocol that sets out how and when the inhaler should be used will also protect staff by ensuring they know what to do in the event of a child having an asthma attack.

## *Lucy, a severe asthma sufferer with asthmatic children (2019)*

“I have lived with severe asthma all my life and suffered multiple asthma attacks in the past. Unfortunately both my children also suffer with asthma and allergies. I think that having a kit like ARK in schools is a fantastic idea, as I know first hand how distressing and frightening an asthma attack can be. I can’t remember the amount of times Sam forgot his inhaler; I would be panicking all day, hoping that the school had a spare inhaler. Just knowing that there was emergency treatment near by would have given me and Sam greater peace of mind.”

