

Healthcare Policy including Medication, Intimate Support, Infection Prevention and Control, and Food Guidelines

Management and Administration of Medication

Key information

This is key information; please refer to guidance below for more detailed information

Management

- Designated coordinator (one per site) is to ensure that Individualised medication support plans are in place, each learner with medication has a medication folder in place with all corresponding documents.
- Designated coordinator is to complete a weekly Medication Administration Record (MAR) chart audit and to complete practise observation.
- The Medication Audit will be passed to a member of AP OPS (or other SLT member in their absence) on the day it is completed, this includes if nil errors are reported.
- All medication errors are to be recorded on a Medication Error Form and passed immediately to a member of SLT for further action
- Senior Learning Support Coordinators or AP OPS to review the audit sheets monthly. Investigate any discrepancies or investigations into mismanagement of medication that have not been completed after an error has been found or after the Weekly Audit. They will also facilitate self-administration assessments with learners.

Recording

- All medication entering the college needs to be recorded. (see policy for more detail)
- Each learner with medication needs to have a MAR sheet.
- Staff need to complete the appropriate documents when preparing and administering medication. (see Appendix)
- If medication is being taken into the community the MAR chart should be taken along with the medication and a copy of the Medication Support Plan and any relevant protocols.

Pre- administering medication

- Staff need to have conducted all appropriate training (see list below) and have read and understood the learner's medication support plan.
- Before administering the staff need to check the MAR sheet and ensure that medication has not already been administered
- The medicine container must be in the original bottle, staff must check the label and match to the MAR sheet, they need to check it is for the correct named person, the dose, route and expiry date.
- If there is any doubt staff need to contact SLSC, and LSC or AP OPS.

Protocol of Administering

- Medication must only be administered to one learner at a time.
- Two members of staff will prepare the medication in accordance with the individual learner's Medication Support Plan. This must be checked for accuracy every time medication is prepared
- The same two members of staff will be present at administration. One member of staff to administer the medication and sign to say they have done so and one to sign as a witness.
- If there are reasons a different member of staff witnesses the medication being administered and not prepared, this must be noted on the MARS sheet.

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- If out in the community with only one member of staff, the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Senior Manager on site must be notified with a rationale as to single person administration.
- We do not hide medication in food unless signed off by a medical practitioner. This will be documented in the medication support plan.
- We do not open medication capsules or crush tablets unless this has been signed off by the parent and pharmacist. This will be documented in the medication support plan.
- If you are opening a new medication this needs to be labelled, dated and included on the MAR sheet.
- It is the responsibility of the team supporting the learner to ensure that medication is administered in a safe, timely manner in line with the medication administration and medication support plans. Failure to follow the protocol could lead to disciplinary action.

Emergency Medication

- Emergency medication such as Midazolam must be carried with the learner. All emergency medication will always be carried securely in a Medlock bag.

Refusal/ disposal of medication

- If a learner refuses, allow a 15-minute gap before trying again, if there are three attempts and the learner is still refusing this must be documented as a refusal. If the staff have immediate concerns around the learner's health, then they need to contact a member of SLT.
- Spoiled medication needs to be put in a zip lock bag, labelled with detail of medication and who's medication. This needs to be noted on the learner's MAR chart and taken to the local pharmacy each week.

Medication Errors.

All medication errors must be reported immediately to a Learning Support Co-ordinator or a member of SLT. This can include:

- Medication not prepared in accordance with the Medication Support Plan.
- Medication is administered to the wrong learner.
- Medication missing or unavailable when required.
- Overdose of medication
- Under-dose of medication.
- Medication is administered early or late
- Staff does not sign MARS chart.
- Inaccurate information on MARS chart

It is essential all staff with a responsibility to prepare and administer medication understand their responsibilities to report any errors immediately they are discovered. Failure to report a known error could result in disciplinary action.

Any medication errors that occur are taken seriously and investigated, any errors will be reported to the designated safeguard lead and Head of College.

Key Documents

- A medication support plan consented to by a medical practitioner and someone with parent responsibility.
- Personalised medication administration record (MAR chart).
- MAR sheet, PRN log and recording sheet (for controlled drugs this will be paginated)
- Signing in and out medication sheet
- Signature sample sheet
- Each learner needs to have a copy of the medication policy in their file if they require the administration of medication.

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- In the case of emergency medication for example seizures such as Buccal Midazolam, a protocol must be provided to the college from a prescribing health practitioner, this should be reflected on the prescribing label of the medication. An Emergency Protocol document will be written and should be available in the Medication Folder and available with the medication at all times. This should be updated on a yearly basis.

Training

- Before administering medication, staff need to have completed the following:
 - E learning module of Administration of Medication.
 - Buccal Midazolam Training.
 - T1-T3 with that learner including the administration of medication.
- It is the Learning Support Co-ordinators responsibility to ensure that a Medication Observation occurs within the academic year with all staff administering medication.
- Senior LSC will conduct medication observations with Learning Support Co-ordinators and undertake a review of the audit process and spot checks when necessary.

Personal Protective Equipment

- All staff preparing and administering medication must wear gloves.
- If administering and preparing medication is completed in the community then staff must ensure that they take gloves and any other items necessary with them.

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Management and Administration of Medication

Purpose and Scope

In accordance with Regulation 13 of the Health and Social Care Act (2008), and guidance from the DfE Ambitious College is committed to ensuring that learner take their medication in a safe and supportive environment. This policy applies to all Ambitious College campuses where medication is administered to learners.

This policy should be read in accordance with the following:

- Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy and Procedure
- Safeguarding Children at Risk Policy and Procedure
- Infection Control Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

1 Introduction

Staff have a duty of care for the learners of Ambitious College. For some, this may include the administration of medication or supporting learners to self-administer medicine.

Ambitious College is committed to enabling learners to have as much independence and control as possible over their health and medication.

Every part of the medication process must be carried out by members of staff that have been trained in the management and administration of medication. In addition, staff must not undertake the following unless they have completed additional training:

- Epilepsy Awareness and the administration of buccal midazolam;
- Rectal administration;
- Injectable drugs (and received delegated authority from the community nurse who is responsible for the learner's care);
- Administration through a Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastronomy (PEG);
- Giving oxygen;
- Administering EpiPen's.
- Diabetes awareness and management.

It is the responsibility of the line manager to book members of staff onto training prior to them being involved in administering medication.

It is the responsibility of the staff member in charge of supporting learners with medication any training needs and competency concerns they may have with the management team.

Members of staff must ensure that when they administer medicine, it is conducted in a way which respects a learner's rights, choices, dignity, and privacy. This will be stated on the learner's medication support plan.

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2 Responsibilities

Those with Parental Responsibility

The responsibilities of those with parental responsibility are:

Before the learner attends Ambitious College to have carried out the following:

- Informed the service in writing of the learner's medical needs when approved for placement, and again as soon as there are any changes to these needs;
- Provide any medication required, ensuring that it is fit for use, clearly labelled, in the original container and includes instructions for administration;
- Pass on to the staff any information about the side effects or adverse effects of the medication.
- Provide an up to date protocol drawn up by a medical practitioner for any PRN medication, the college will take any information from the prescribing as accurate and up to date. Any additional protocol for Emergency conditions to be shared with the College.
- To sign and return the Medication Support Plan to the College.

To ensure that a learner's prescription is up to date and is reviewed as the learner's needs or condition changes.

For dating all creams, drops, and liquids if they are first opened at home and are sent in for use at Ambitious College. Those with parental responsibility must confirm with the prescriber how long the cream, drops or liquid is meant to be used for to prevent prolonged use. They must advise staff accordingly.

The Designated Lead Co-Ordinator

Each learner will be designated a lead co-ordinator at Ambitious College. It is their responsibility to:

Translate the information provided by those with parental responsibility into an individualised medication support plan (appendix 1). This will detail:

- The learner's details including medical condition;
- Emergency contact details and registered medical practitioner;
- Medication required, administration and storage details;
- Dosage to be given;
- The learner's preferred way to take the medication (if known);
- Pro re nata (PRN)¹ guidelines for administration and pain profiles/ Asthma profiles/ epilepsy guidelines as required;
- Possible side effects and signs to look for i.e. wheeziness, eyes running, itching etc;
- Emergency procedures to be followed.

¹ Medicines that are taken "as needed" are known as PRN medications. "PRN" is the Latin term that stands for "pro re nata", which means "as the thing is needed". <http://www.safemedication.com>

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To compile individualised medication folders for each learner. These must include:

- A medication support plan (appendix 1) consented by someone with parental responsibility (if required – see section 6 below);
- Personalised Medication Administration Record (MAR) chart/s (appendix 2);
- Personalised record of detail sheets (appendix 3);
- Personalised sign/in out sheets (appendices 4 and 5);
- Personalised PRN logs where applicable (appendix 6);
- Individual, bound and paginated MAR sheets, PRN Logs and Record of detail sheets for each controlled drug required;
- An individualised medication risk assessment;
- A copy of the medication policy;
- A copy of the signature sample sheet.
- Any relevant protocols drawn up by medical practitioners. This information will be transferred to our Emergency protocol document for those that require it. (Appendix 10).
- Audit of Medication Record

To train staff to ensure that they understand the purpose of each document in the medication file and understand how to complete them accurately.

To ensure that all up to date medical information on an individual’s MAR chart is printed on the MAR chart. The drug information must exactly reflect the labelling on the medication itself.

On receipt of written confirmation of a change to a learner’s prescription, to make changes to the MAR chart and medication support plan by drawing a line through the relevant entry together with the date of cancellation. This should then be signed by the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops). The medical practitioner should authorise the change by sending a letter of authorisation. The lead co-ordinator must attach the written authorisation to the medication support plan.

To ensure that staff are trained in the administration of medication and any additional training for specific treatments (i.e. epilepsy). Additionally, to ensure that this is logged on their training record and training is refreshed as required.

To undertake weekly audits of the medication cabinet stock using the weekly medication cabinet stock check sheet (appendix 7) and the Medication Audit Form (appendix 9).

To record any medication errors on the Medication Errors Form (appendix 8) To inform SLT and the designated safeguard lead of any medication errors immediately they are discovered.

To follow up all medication errors and investigate in a timely manner and with advice from AP OPS/SLT.

To support the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) with monthly audits as and when required.

To dispose of spoilt medications as appropriate (see section 18).

Staff who Prepare and Administer Medication

Staff who prepare and administer medication are responsible for:

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Ensuring that they have read and understood the learner's medication support plans and know why the learner takes the medication/s that they administer. Staff must also know the side effects, and precautions of use.

Recording their initials on the Medication Administration Record (MAR) chart whenever they prepare and administer a medication. Also, to ensure completion of the record of detail and PRN logs as required.

Where appropriate, providing information to learners about the medicine they are taking. This includes the possible risks.

To date all creams, drops, and liquids if they are first opened at Ambitious College. Staff must then note this on the appropriate medication sign in sheet (daily - appendix 4) or (College medication cupboard sign in - appendix 5).

It is the responsibility of the staff member supporting the learner each day to ensure that medication is taken in a safe and timely manner in accordance with administration of medication and medical support plan. Failure to do so will be taken seriously. (Refer to AC Adult and Children protection safeguarding policy, keeping children safe in education and AAA disciplinary policy).

Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops)

Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) are responsible for:

- Facilitating medication self-administration assessment meetings with learners;
- Authorising changes to MAR charts and medication support plans when required (e.g. a change to a learner's medication);
- Investigating discrepancies and giving points of clarity as they arise;
- Investigating single witness administrations to ensure they were appropriate;
- Liaising with parents/carers, medical practitioners or emergency services when medication has been refused or medication errors have occurred;
- Inform Head of College of any medication Errors/ suspected thefts.
- Investigating any suspected theft of medications;
- Ensure medication Errors are reported to the designated Safe Guarding lead.
- Investigating mis-administered PRN;
- Undertaking a monthly review of the audit process, including records, medications stored and medication errors.
- Ensuring all staff are adequately trained as required and refresher training is undertaken as and when required;
- Invoking formal disciplinary procedures where required.

3 Mental Capacity and Medication

Once a young learner reaches the age of 16, they are legally presumed to be competent unless a mental capacity assessment proves otherwise.

When a learner joins Ambitious College, they are given the opportunity to discuss self-administration with the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) to decide whether they can self-medicate. A medication self-administration assessment (appendix 8) is completed by the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) with the learner and their keyworker to assess the learner's ability to self-medicate. This is signed by the learner, their keyworker, and the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) or Assistant Principal (Ops).

4 Self Administration

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If an assessment deems a learner to have mental capacity and competence to self-administer then they are actively encouraged and supported to do so if they wish to. A medication self-administration assessment should be reviewed every six months.

However, the assessment can be reviewed earlier if the learner's circumstances change. Self-administration of medicine is not 'all or nothing'. A learner may be able to safely apply creams but may not be able to self-administer tablets. Each medication requires a separate mental capacity assessment

Following the completion of a medication self-administration assessment, a risk assessment must be completed by the designated lead co-ordinator. The risk assessment should be reviewed on a regular basis. The opinions of relatives, carers, advocates, and medical professionals should be sought where appropriate.

5 Administration of medication by Ambitious College Staff

Following assessment, where a learner is deemed not to have capacity or competences to self-administer, staff are required to administer medication to them.

Prescribed medication can only be given to the learner it is prescribed for. All medication must be supplied by the individual with parental responsibility.

6 Consent

Those with parental responsibility can sign consent on a learner's behalf, the college will view the prescribed labels as sign off by a medical prescriber. Consent is signed in the relevant section of the finalised medication support plan and acts as consent given for all listed drugs listed in the plan. If a new drug is subsequently prescribed then written consent will be required from those with parental responsibility, the drug must have a prescribed label present. Ambitious College staff can administer the drug. The lead co-ordinator must then update the medication support plan, MAR and sign in/out sheets and attach the written consent for reference.

Verbal consent to the administration of medication cannot be accepted.

7 Maintaining a supply of medication

All medication supplied to Ambitious College to administer to a learner must be obtained from an approved supplier. Approved suppliers are:

- An appropriately licensed hospital pharmacy department;
- A community pharmacy;
- A licensed pharmaceutical wholesaler;
- An NHS supplies department.

All medication must be individually prescribed and labelled accordingly. Medication will be returned home if the name of the medication or the dosage on the label differs from that on the prescription. This medication will not be administered.

Medication is the property of the learner for whom it is prescribed to and should not be used by anyone else.

Those with parental responsibility must ensure that there is a continuity of supplies by ordering repeat prescriptions when necessary.

Those with parental responsibility must ask the supplying pharmacist to provide clear instructions on how the medicine should be administered. If the instructions are not clear, those with parental responsibility will be asked to contact the pharmacist for clarification before the medicine is administered at Ambitious College

If a medicine arrives without a label, a properly labelled box must be requested from those with parental responsibility otherwise the medicine must be rejected. If multiple containers are used,

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each container must be labelled. For medicine that has an inner container and an outer box, the label should be applied to the container.

8 Administration

All staff must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) provided when administering any medication. This should include gloves and aprons, but as minimum gloves must be worn at all times. When administration is likely to take place in a community setting then staff must ensure they have adequate PPE with them. Gloves must always be worn when handling medication and disposed of directly after administration.

Where a learner is unable to administer their own medicine, a trained member of staff should take on this responsibility.

Trained staff can assist a learner with:

- Taking tablets, capsules, and oral mixtures;
- Applying a medicated cream or ointment;
- Inserting drops;
- Administering inhaled medication.
- Administering EpiPen's
- Administering Buccal Midazolam
- Taking blood sugar levels.
- Administering prescribed emergency medication.

Medication cabinet and fridge keys are held by the days shift lead. Access must only be given by the shift lead. If the shift lead is not available then access to medication needs to be gained via other Co-ordinators, the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops). Cabinet or fridge keys should not be given to any other member of the staff team. Only staff with a responsibility for preparing or administering medication have access to the locked Medication Room.

Where a learner requires an emergency medication such as Buccal, or has community access, then they may carry their own medication with them for ease of access. In these cases, staff must ensure that the medications are always transported in a locked Medlock bag. A copy of the MARS chart and the Individual Support plan should be carried on community trips.

If a member of staff is required to administer a medicine that they are unfamiliar with, or it has an unfamiliar measuring method, the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) should be contacted for guidance.

Before a member of staff administers medication, they must ensure that they have the necessary equipment.

Medicine must only be administered to one learner at a time.

Two members of staff will prepare the medication according to the Individual medication Support Plan

The same two members of staff will be responsible for the administration of the medication One member of staff will administer, and one will act as a witness and counter sign the MARS chart.

Both members of staff have equal responsibility to prepare and administer the medication according to the Medication Support Plan and Risk Assessment.

Both members of staff have equal responsibility to report any errors in medication preparation or administration immediately

Where it is not possible for the same two members of staff to be present (e.g. the learner is being supported 1:1 in the community) and only one member of staff witnesses the administration, this must be recorded on the record of detail sheet and a rationale given. The Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops)/ SLT must be notified.

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Where administration takes place on College premises, where possible this should take place in the medication room. However, there are some incidences when the medication may be required to be administered elsewhere. These are:

- Where there is no allocated medication room available;
- During a period of learner escalation;
- Where the learner is struggling with transition to the medication room;
- Where the learner is incapacitated;
- Where the medication room is already in use and the medication must be administered to a specific time cycle which would be affected by waiting.

Before administration, staff must identify the medicine container(s), checking that the label(s) and the record(s) match as well as route the medicine is to be administered. Staff must also check that the dose has not already been administered by looking at the MARS chart. If there is any discrepancy, the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) must be notified prior to administration.

Medicine should always be administered from the original dispensed bottle or Monitored Dosage System (MDS). The label should not be altered in any way.

Staff administering medication must sign the MAR chart after the medication has been - administered. Staff must also complete the PRN log if required.

When there is a choice of dosage (e.g. 1 or 2 tablets) the appropriate dosage should be detailed in the learner's medication support plan. The amount administered should be recorded on the MAR chart and the learner's record of detail sheet or PRN log (whichever is relevant).

If a learner experiences any adverse reaction to their medication and requires emergency medical support, then staff are responsible for advising the shift lead who will immediately dial 999 and inform the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops)/ SLT at the first available opportunity. If the adverse reaction is less serious this must be immediately reported to the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops)/ SLT who will contact the learner's medical practitioner and those with parental responsibility and decide next steps.

Where PPIs (proton pump inhibitors) such as omeprazole, lansoprazole and rabeprazole are being administered staff should ensure that they are administered at least half an hour before food to enable it to work effectively.

9 Hiding Medicines

Hiding medicine in food or drink (covert administration) must only be undertaken as a last resort where a medical practitioner deems it necessary for the learner's health and wellbeing or for the safety of others. Where covert administration is required then this must be detailed on the medication support plan which the medical practitioner must sign to authorise.

When administering medication in food, staff must be cautious and be sure that the learner knows it is there. Some medication can interact with different foods. Therefore, staff must ensure that it is safe according to a medical practitioner.

10 Crushing or opening medicine

Many learners are unable to swallow their tablets or capsules whole. If a decision is made to crush or open medicine, staff must be aware of the following:

- The opening of capsules or crushing tablets in the majority of cases makes a medicine 'unlicensed' as it may affect and alter the medicine;
- Under the Medicines Act (1968), only medical and dental practitioners can authorise the use of unlicensed medicines.

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The crushing or opening of medicine can be carried out ONLY after those with parental responsibility have confirmed with the prescriber or pharmacist that it is safe and suitable to do so. This should be detailed on the medication support plan that the medical practitioner authorises. If it is not, then the medical practitioner or pharmacist must provide written authorisation that can be attached to the medication support plan. If staff crush or open capsules without seeking advice from the appropriate learner, they may be held liable if anything goes wrong.

When a medical practitioner has authorised crushing of medication this must be completed in an appropriate container, available from the prescribing pharmacist. This must be washed after each use and only used for that purpose and for that particular medication.

11 Re-administration

On some occasions learners may spit out medication after administration. If this is an identifiable whole dose, e.g. a whole tablet, then it should be recorded as spoiled and staff should administer another dose.

In scenarios where the amount spat out cannot be identified as a whole dose then staff should not attempt to re-administer as this may lead to overdose. On these occasions the shift lead should immediately be notified and Advice sought from the prescribing practitioner/ 111 or those with parental responsibility. A full record of this conversation and resulting actions should be marked on the record of detail sheet and signed by the shift lead.

If a learner vomits within five minutes of an administration of medication, again the shift lead should be notified immediately and the prescribing practitioner or person with parental responsibility contacted. Notes should be made on the record of detail sheet. Medication must not be re-administered unless this is advised by the medical practitioner.

12 Refusal of Medicine

Where a learner refuses to take medication staff must allow a 15 minute gap before trying again. If after three attempts the learner is still refusing to take the medication then this must be deemed as a refusal.

Where a learner refuses to take their medicine, it should be explained to them that the medicine has been prescribed to maintain their health. If the learner still refuses, this must be recorded on their MAR chart and record of detail sheet. If staff have immediate concerns about a learner's health due to medication not being taken, they should contact the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) who will in turn call emergency services if it is urgent or contact those with parental responsibility in less urgent cases.

Regular and consistent refusal of medication should be reported to the learner's medical practitioner via those with parental responsibility.

Where a learner has mental capacity, staff must respect a learner's refusal of medication.

Regardless of a learner's mental capacity forcing or coercing a learner to take their medicine is unlawful and is in breach of a learner's human rights.

13 Spoilt Medication

Where medication has been spoilt, it should be put into a zip lock bag which is labelled with the name of the drug, the dose spoiled and the date and time of the spoilage.

Where the spoil is a liquid then mop up the spill with tissues and place the tissues in the zip lock bag. This zip lock bag should then be kept in a locked drawer and spoilt medications brought to the local pharmacy for disposal at the end of each week.

A record should be made on the learner's MAR chart and the record of detail sheet that their medicine has been spoilt and a rationale given.

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Where a stored medication is spoiled due to meeting its expiry date the medication should be returned home for those with parental responsibility to dispose of.

14 Recording

All medication that is brought into College must be recorded. The record must show:

- Date of receipt;
- Name, strength, and dosage of the medicine;
- Quantity received;
- Who the medicine is prescribed for;
- The expiry date of the medication;
- Signature of the member of staff who collected the medicine (where signed in and out daily);
- Signature of learner who supplied the medicine e.g. those with parental responsibility (where signed in and out daily);
- Signature of the shift lead logging medication into the medication cabinet when being stored at College.

Some learners bring their medication to and from College on a daily basis. Staff must ensure that the sign in/out sheet is completed at the beginning and end of each day and that medication is stored in a LockMed bag or the College medications cabinet/fridge during the course of the day.

Some learners keep a stock of medication at College. If a new batch of medication is sent into College then the shift lead/other co-ordinators must immediately undertake a new medication audit sheet (appendix 7) and record receipt of the new batch in that. If the drug is required to be taken offsite at any point then it must be signed out and back in using the medication cabinet sign in/out sheet.

All records of prescribed medication must be clear, accurate, legible, and current. The MAR chart should record when the medicine is administered, the medicine prescribed and details of any homely remedies (see section 22). The designated Co-ordinator should check the MAR chart on a weekly basis. The Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) should audit the medication paperwork for each learner on a monthly basis.

Where any changes are made on MAR charts this should include crossing out using a single line strikethrough of the error in red pen and initialled by the signer. The actual date of signing must be provided.

This may happen on occasion when a medication error is minor and/or noticed immediately and can be rectified with the authorisation of the LSC. This will also be recorded as a medication Error and recorded on a Medication Error Form which must be handed to a member of SLT as soon as it is completed.

The change to the MAR Chart should then be initialled by a coordinator and the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) to allow for an audit trail.

If a learner self-administers, the administration record does not need to be kept by Ambitious College and the MAR chart should be marked accordingly.

Taking medicines from the container supplied by the pharmacist and placing it into another is known as 'secondary dispensing' and is illegal. If staff are assisting a learner in the administration of medication, they should not be directly involved in the re- dispensing process as they will be held liable if something goes wrong. Therefore, re- dispensing should not be carried out at all. If, however the learner can self-administer and wants to do it themselves, then they are taking responsibility themselves. BUT because members of staff have a duty of care to the learner, staff should ensure that a risk assessment is carried out to ensure that the learner knows what they are doing and they should not be encouraged to secondary dispense.

All records should be available for inspection by those with parental responsibility, social services, the Primary Care Trust (PCT), Ofsted and other health care personnel.

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Any medication that is removed from the College must be recorded with the following information (where relevant):

- Date of disposal or return to the pharmacy;
- Name and strength of the medicine;
- Quantity removed;
- Who the medicine was prescribed or purchased for;
- Signature of the member of staff who arranged the disposal;
- Signed receipt from the pharmacist.

When a learner leaves Ambitious College all medicines (including controlled drugs) being kept at the College must be sent back home. In addition, Ambitious College must keep the learner's medical records for at least three years.

15 Errors

It is important that errors are recorded, and the cause is investigated to prevent a similar error happening in the future. See Appendix 8 Medication Errors

Errors can include:

- Medication not prepared in accordance with the Medication Support Plan.
- Medication is administered to the wrong learner.
- Medication missing or unavailable when required.
- Overdose of medication
- Under-dose of medication.
- Medication is administered early or late
- Staff do not sign MARS chart.
- Inaccurate information on MARS chart

Regardless of the severity and consequence of the mistake, all adverse drug reactions, incidents, errors and near misses must be reported to the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops).

Any errors in the administration of medication must be recorded and immediately reported to the shift lead who will complete a Medication Error Form and pass this to a member of SLT immediately.

Medication Errors need to be reported to the designated safeguard lead.

The learner's medical practitioner should be contacted for advice and where necessary, an ambulance should be called if necessary. The Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) will ensure that the Principal is made aware of the situation at the nearest opportunity. It is the responsibility of the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) to investigate the error with the member of staff and record any action taken. This includes any further training required.

Where a medication error has been made, the responsible member of staff must take appropriate action. Where there is failure to take action or where a member of staff continues to make medication errors, these errors will be dealt with in accordance with Disciplinary policy.

Staff must ensure that they watch for side effects and adverse reactions. Appropriate action must be taken if a learner's condition changes or causes concern by seeking medical help immediately and alerting the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) or Assistant Principal (Ops).

It is the responsibility of the team supporting the learner to ensure that medication is administered in a safe, timely manner in line with the medication administration and medication support plans. Failure to follow the protocol could lead to disciplinary action.

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16 Storage of Medication

Medication will be stored in the Medication Room in a locked cabinet or fridge.

Access to the Medication Room is restricted to those with a responsibility for preparing and administering medication, including members of SLT,

Staff must ensure that there is correct storage, stock rotation and expiry date checking of medication. Stock should be rotated to ensure that the stock with the shortest expiry date is used first.

All medication should be kept in the original container in which it was dispensed. Where a learner has capacity and it is deemed safe for them to hold their own their medicine whilst at College, they must be supplied with a lockable Medlock bag so that they can store their medicine securely. Staff can only access the Medlock bag in an emergency or with permission from the learner. Such access must be recorded.

Where a learner does not have capacity and it is not safe for a learner to hold their own medicine (i.e. there is a risk of overdose), the medicine must be securely stored in the College medication cabinet or in a locked Medlock bag that is held by the staff.

Refrigerators and cupboards designated for storing medication must not be used for the storage of food, valuables, or other items.

Where staff members require emergency Medication for themselves, they must inform their line manager, this medication can be stored by the college. Any medication required by a staff member must be securely locked away and labelled in line with the policy. It is the staff members responsibility to declare any know medical conditions that are life threatening and require medication. A risk assessment will be necessary if medication is required to be carried by a staff member

17 Emergency Supplies of Medication

Where an emergency supply of medication is required, it is the responsibility of the learner or those with parental responsibility to supply it.

18 Disposal of Medication

Medication should be disposed when:

- It has expired;
- The course of treatment is complete;
- The learner leaves Ambitious College;
- The learner dies (not until seven days after in case the medication is required by the coroner);
- There is a refrigerator failure;
- The dosage is removed from the original container but not taken (in this case the removed dosage should be put into a separate zip lock bag sent back to the pharmacist for disposal).

Where the learner has mental capacity, consent should be sought from them before their medication is disposed.

In the case of a full set of medication (not a spoiled dose), the designated co-ordinator must send the medication home with the learner to be disposed of by those with parental responsibility.

In the case of a spoiled dose, the medication needs to be put in a zip lock bag that is labelled with the date of the spoil, the drug name and dose and locked in a locked drawer. The designated coordinator must return all spoils to the local pharmacy for disposal at the end of each week. In these cases they must get a signed receipt from the pharmacist.

When returning controlled drugs for disposal, an entry must be made in the learners controlled drug book and the pharmacist must sign the entry in the book.

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Medication must not be discarded in dustbins or in the water system. A record of all returned medication must be kept by Ambitious College. This record must include the name of the medicine and the quantity disposed.

19 Theft of Medication

In accordance with the Medicines Act (1968), theft of medication is a serious criminal offence and will be treated as fraud and in breach of safeguarding policies and procedures.

Any member of staff who has reason to believe that medication has been taken without authority has a duty to report their concerns to the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) (where this is inappropriate, the concern should be reported to the Head of College).

The Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) must take reasonable steps to ensure that the medication is in fact missing; for example, check administration records and cupboards not normally used for storage of medication. If the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) is unable to find the medication, they must report their suspicion to the Head of College at the earliest opportunity.

Where it is required, an investigation will be undertaken in accordance with Ambitious about Autism's safeguarding procedures. This may involve notifying the police.

20 Controlled Drugs

When staff receive a new drug for a learner, they should check whether or not it is a controlled drug. This information can be found on the controlled drugs list or by contacting a local pharmacist for advice

Controlled drugs may only be supplied for individually named learners. The learner who has been prescribed a controlled drug, legally has the right to possess the medication. Controlled drugs must be kept separately from other medicines in the controlled drugs cabinet that is locked and secured as specified by the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations (1973). Where the controlled drug requires refrigeration and there is not a separate controlled drugs fridge then it can be locked in a locked box inside a lockable medication fridge.

Controlled drugs should only be administered with two members of staff who have also prepared the medication and checked it against the MARS chart.

Any gloves worn during the administration of controlled drugs should be disposed of in the clinical waste bin (yellow bin).

Separate records should be maintained for controlled drugs at each administration in a bound and paginated book. This must be maintained and checked by the designated LSC responsible for the Medication Audit.

21 PRN Medication

PRN or 'as required' medication will be prescribed with a specific dose for the individual depending on the particular situation. The indication for use of PRN medication should be presented clearly and should include the dose, frequency and dosage intervals including the maximum daily dose (e.g. 2 x 20mg tablets every 4 hours up to a maximum of 6 tablets per day). The full instructions for use should be transferred onto the learner's medication support plan and administration documents.

When administering PRN medication, staff should indicate the amount of medication given and should sign the MAR chart when the medication has been administered. The medication support plan should outline clear PRN guidelines signed by those with parental responsibility and relevant medical practitioner. These details should be kept with the MAR chart.

Whenever a PRN drug is administered this must be documented and a rationale given in the learners PRN log in the medication folder. This rationale must align with the guidance for administration of PRN drugs that is in the consented medication support plan.

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If a PRN is administered and the PRN log is not completed or does not align with guidelines then this must be reported to the Senior Learning Support Coordinators or Assistant Principal (Ops) to investigate. This may result in disciplinary action being taken.

Staff must not, under any circumstances, decide whether the administration of medication to treat medical conditions is required. This decision is the responsibility of the medical professional and as such, a clear protocol for the administration of such medication should be developed within a multi-disciplinary process. This protocol should include clear guidance and should be documented in the learner's care plan and kept under review. It is always important to refer to the prescribing medical practitioner for advice and guidance around medication and to liaise with parents/carers around how to best support the learner to understand the purpose of their medication, how to administer safely and with the rights of the young person central to the process of administration.

22 Homely Remedies

A homely remedy is a product that can be obtained, without a prescription, for the immediate relief of a minor, self-limiting ailment e.g. cough syrup

Ambitious College will administer homely remedies that have been purchased from an approved supplier (see section 7).

Those with parental responsibility are responsible for the supply of any homely remedies to Ambitious College and must ensure that the product is in date. If not then Ambitious College will not administer it.

It is the responsibility of those with parental responsibility to ensure that any homely remedy supplied does not impact on any other medications taken by the learner and will not cause an allergic reaction.

Homely remedies will only be administered where written consent is given by those with parental responsibility. Separate consent must be supplied for each new homely remedy supplied to Ambitious College to administer. The lead coordinator must attach this consent to the learner's medication support plan.

Administration of homely remedies must be recorded on the learner's MAR chart, with the time and dosage noted. Administration must also be noted on the PRN log.

23 Confidentiality and information sharing

It is essential that any medical information about a learner is shared between staff on a need to know basis.

Within the management and administration of medication, confidentiality must be maintained at all times. A deliberate breach of confidentiality will be considered a disciplinary matter.

If a learner would like their medical status to remain confidential, they must have their wishes respected unless this is contrary to the information sharing principles of the safeguarding and protection of adults at risk policy

All medical records must be completed and stored in accordance with the GDPR 2018 Staff must ensure that they maintain the confidentiality of the information held within these records. Please refer to Ambitious about Autism's GDPR Policy for further information.

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photo

APPENDIX 1- Ambitious College

LEARNERS NAME- MEDICATION SUPPORT

Learner Name:

.....

Date of Birth:

.....

Address:

.....

All Staff MUST:

- Wash hands before AND after medication administration
- Be aware of policies and work within company guidelines
- Ensure you have the correct PPE prior to administration
- Check medication is within it's use by date prior to administration
- Ensure MAR chart is signed and that any refusal of medication is recorded appropriately

PLAN

Allergies

Reaction:

DATE PLAN WRITTEN:.....

VERSION NUMBER:.....

About me:

Learner's Daily Medication (Medication learner takes everyday):

Drug to be administered	Dosage of medication to be administered	Route of Administration	Time to be given	Specific GP instructions (i.e. Take this medication after eating/with food etc.)	Last review date	Next review date	Side Effects

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Daily Medication Guidelines:

Medication:

Name of medication and what it is used for here

Method:

BEFORE YOU GIVE MEDICATION

- Check the name of the person you are offering medication to is the same as what is stated on the box/bottle
- Check the name of the medication is the same as what is stated on the individuals MAR chart
- Check that you are offering the medication at the correct time as stated on the individuals MAR chart
- Check that you are offering the correct dose of medication, cross check against the individuals MAR chart
- Check the route of administration
- Check that the medication is within its use by date

A bit about what the learner is capable of , how it is administered.

Medication:

Name of medication and what it is used for here

Method:

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Learner's name PRN Medications (As and when needed):

Drug to be administered	Dosage of medication to be administered	Route of Administration	Time to be given	Specific GP instructions (i.e. Take this medication after eating/with food etc.)	Last review date	Next review date	Side effects

PRN Medication Guidelines:

Medication: Name of medication and what it is used for here
Same as above

Storage:

My medication is stored in a lockmed bag (picture below) which has a combination key lock to keep it safe while I am in College. The lockmed bag is then stored in a medication cabinet in the staff room to ensure no one else can access my medication. The cabinet can be accessed by the shift lead. A spare key is kept in the key cabinet on both sites.

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Emergency Contacts and Consent:

<p>Consent: By signing the consent I agree that all information included in this support plan is correct and that permission is given to the college to administer the above medication. I am unaware of any adverse interactions of the medication. If the any medication type, dose or route is changed I will inform the college immediately.</p>
<p>Signed (Person with parental responsibility)</p>
<p>Date signed (Person with parental responsibility)</p>

<p>Managers sign off:</p>
<p>Checked by: (name):</p>
<p>Signed:</p>
<p>Date signed:</p>

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Appendix 2 – Example MAR
Chart

Name:
Week Commencing:

Date of Birth:
Name of GP:

Allergies:

Medication	Time	Route	Dose	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday			
				WIT 1	WIT 2	Actual Time	WIT 1	WIT 2	Actual Time	WIT 1	WIT 2	Actual Time	WIT 1	WIT 2	Actual Time	WIT 1	WIT 2	Actual Time	
Oranhas																			

'D'
'R'
been

signed on the MAR chart then you MUST complete a record of detail sheet to state why. If a PRN has been administered, please fill out the PRN log accordingly.

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Appendix 3 - Medication Record of Detail Sheet – *please use this sheet if a medication has been refused or destroyed.*

Date:	Description:	Print Name:
Time:		Sign:
Date:	Description:	Print Name:
Time:		Sign:
Date:	Description:	Print Name:
Time:		Sign:
Date:	Description:	Print Name:
Time:		Sign:
Date:	Description:	Print Name:
Time:		Sign:

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Appendix 4 - Daily medication sign in/out sheet

Learner Name:

Date:

Drug Name	Expiry Date	Quantity Received	LaBS/Parent Signature	Quantity Returned	LaBS/Parent Signature
Drug Name	Expiry Date	Quantity Received	LaBS/Parent Signature	Quantity Returned	LaBS/Parent Signature
Drug Name	Expiry Date	Quantity Received	LaBS/Parent Signature	Quantity Returned	LaBS/Parent Signature

Date
:
Time
:
Date
:
Time
:

Shift
lead
sign in
to

cupboard:
Shift lead sign out of
cupboard:

Date:

Date:

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Appendix 5 - Medication Stock Cupboard Sign out Form

This form will need to be completed when medication is removed from college grounds due to a community visit. A learner may need support to take medication outside of college or may require emergency/PRN medication.

Learner Name:

Medication Name	Expiry		Quantity	Out	In	Out	In
Signed							

Medication Name	Expiry		Quantity	Out	In	Out	In
Signed							

Medication Name	Expiry		Quantity	Out	In	Out	In
Signed							

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Appendix 6 - PRN Administration Log

LEARNER NAME:

Date	Drug	Dosage	Time of Administration	Reason for administration	Witness Signature	Witness signature

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Appendix 7 Weekly Medication Cabinet Stock Check Sheet

Learner
 Name:

Medication	Exp Date		Stock	+	Quantity Received	=	Total	-	Amount Administered	Amount Destroyed/ Returned	=	Total	Staff Signature	
				+		=		-			=			
				+		=		-			=			
				+		=		-			=			
				+		=		-			=			
				+		=		-			=			

Completed by:
 Date:

Discrepancies:

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Appendix 8- Record of Medication Error

<p>Medication Error Includes errors in: Storage Preparing Administering</p>
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To be completed by authorised staff

- LSC's
- Member of SLT

One form per medication error

Medication errors must be followed up immediately they are found or disclosed by a member of staff.

Medication errors fall within the college Safeguarding Policy and must be passed onto the Designated Safeguarding Lead or other Member of SLT available on the same day they are found.

Today's Date (date error found/disclosed)	Type of error Describe in detail	Date of error	Immediate Action to be taken (e.g. 999/contact parents/social worker/GP)	Follow up (e.g. staff training/policy review)	Conclusion	Completed Signed and dated

Completed By:
Safeguarding Lead/SLT Member:

Signature:
Signature:

Date:
Date:

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**Appendix 9- Record of
Medication Audit**

To be completed at each medication audit and stored in a Medication Audit Folder
(Weekly by LSC) If there are no issues arising or action required a NIL RETURN should be
entered in the box below

The Safeguarding Lead or Member of AP OPS must be informed after the audit if there are issues arising or a NIL RETURN

Date of Audit	Issues Arising from Audit	Action taken immediately after the audit	Follow up action required	Conclusion

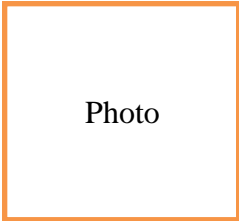
Completed By:
Safeguarding Lead/SLT Member:

Signature:
Signature:

Date:
Date:

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**APPENDIX 10- PROTOCOL GUIDELINES-
EPILEPSY**



Leaner Name:	
Date of Plan and Version:	
Type of Epilepsy Seizures:	
My emergency Medication is:	

Seizure first Aid:

Keep calm. Provide reassurance and talk to the person they may still be able to hear you. Remove bystander. Keep airway clear. Turn on side if possible. Nothing in mouth Keep safe. Remove objects. Do not restrain. Time, observe, record what happens. Stay with person until fully recovered from the seizure and monitor breathing.

My Epilepsy:

Triggers/ Awareness

During a Seizure I will....

After my seizure I will.....

Administer Emergency Medication if....

Ring 999 if....

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My triggers can be/I do not know what my triggers are. • I am aware I am going to have a seizure when/ I am never aware I am going to have a seizure.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • my seizure goes over • I have a cluster of..... seizures inhours.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have had any seizure at all of any length/ if i have had a seizure lasting over

Key things to Remember:

- Please inform the LSC shift lead that the learner has had a seizure. (LSC will inform parents/ home if required).
- If the learner requires to go to A&E SLT to be informed.
- After a seizure please ensure that the individual is seen by a first aider.
- Ensure that the seizure is documented on a seizure recording sheet.

Signed by Medication Lead:.....

Date:.....

Signed by Parent with responsibility: Date:

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Intimate Support

1 Purpose and Scope

This provides guidelines on the delivery of intimate support to learners in Ambitious College including personal care, nutrition and hydration. This policy relates to all learners accessing further education at Ambitious College.

This should be read in conjunction with:

- Ambitious About Autism Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy
- Ambitious About Autism Safeguarding Children Policy
- Keeping Children safe in Education

2 Intimate Support

Intimate support is defined as personal care tasks of an intimate nature, associated with bodily functions, body products, medication and personal hygiene which need direct or indirect contact with or exposure of the learner's body.

All staff must understand that the delivery of personal and intimate support requires a professional and sensitive approach in order to preserve the dignity of learners and to safeguard their wellbeing at all times. Many learners have sensitivities about their bodies and bodily functions; about dressing and undressing; and find personal hygiene routines challenging.

All staff responsible for intimate support will have received clearance through an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Staff whose clearance has yet to be received should never be left in sole charge of a learner. Prior to working independently with a learner staff will complete individualised learner training (3 overlap sessions where possible will take place: T1-3) under the supervision of a Senior Learning and Behaviour Specialist (SLaBS) or Learning Support Co-Ordinator (LSC). All learners have a Personal Care Support Plan, which sets out how they should be consistently supported in their personal care needs; demonstrable understanding of this document is a key criterion for the successful completion of this training.

Ambitious College will support learners by offering the highest possible level of privacy, choice and control, as determined by each individual's personal needs and/or degree of independence. Personal Care is undertaken in the least intrusive way possible, whilst ensuring that the needs of the learner are fully met as per their Personal Care Support Plans.

Learners in Ambitious College will be empowered to undertake as much of their own intimate support as possible. At all times, staff will carry out support in accordance with learner's preferences and support plans. Staff are expected to listen to learners to understand their wants and update Personal Care Support Plans accordingly.

Learners are encouraged to be as independent as possible during toileting routines. Staff will typically be present to oversee safety, however if a learner is known to be able to use the toilet independently this will be encouraged.

Ambitious College staff are expected to respect the privacy and personal space of all learners and will offer the least intrusive support needed during toilet times to encourage the independence and dignity of the learner.

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Staff are encouraged to maintain regular communication about toileting and intimate support with parents and/or other primary care givers, having daily opportunities to share such information through the daily handover sheets. Guidelines to support staff with intimate support are set out in the individual's Personal Care Support Plan. It is essential that all communication around intimate care is done so sensitively.

Formal reviews of support plans relating to intimate support are reviewed at the start of the academic year (September) and at the annual person-centred review meeting (February). Any unplanned changes will be reviewed and actioned accordingly.

3 Intimate Care Procedures

When working with a learner staff must familiarise themselves with the individual care plan

- 1 Staff must have appropriate means of communication support for learners throughout any personal care routine, for example using words, visual aids, or signed communication so that learners can (a) understand what will be happening and why, and (b) express their views on their experience of the routine, e.g. identify preferences, likes, dislikes, etc.
- 2 Learners are given the highest possible level of autonomy during intimate support routines; the aim is always to teach them to be able to carry out their own care where possible and appropriate.
- 3 If a learner has a toileting accident, this will be dealt with the highest degree of sensitivity and no blame apportioned.
- 4 Staff who carry out intimate support routines for learners will have training as part of their induction and in individualised learner training and will be aware of best practice.
- 5 Staff must always remain mindful of professional boundaries in order to ensure that over familiar relationships between staff and learners do not develop.
- 6 New members of staff will not be asked to lead on personal care routines until trust developed and completion of individualised learner training (T1-3) successfully completed.
- 7 If, through delivering intimate support, staff observe any health/safeguarding issues, staff will follow the appropriate safeguarding procedure
- 8 Staff must ensure, when in the community with learners, they have the appropriate equipment (including Personal Protective Equipment; PPE) to deliver intimate support.
- 9 Staff must ensure regular communication with parents/carers through the Daily Record sheets; and ensure they are kept aware of all intimate support arrangements and are partners in discussions when an Personal Care Support Plan is recorded/reviewed. Where possible the learners should be involved in developing their own personal support plans.
- 10 Prescribed medication can only be administered by Ambitious College Staff in line with the Administration of Medication Policy.

4 Supporting sexual/ sexualised behaviours

Personal behaviours, such as touching private body parts, are a fact of life – learning when and in what places it is appropriate to touch private body parts can be more challenging for young adults with autism. (see also PSCHE and RSE Policy).

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If a learner is displaying sexualised behaviours (in an inappropriate environment), and no safeguarding issues are raised or noted, the learner will be redirected to an appropriate environment. If the behaviour persists, staff will work with the learner around supporting appropriate behaviours. No learner will ever be treated negatively for displaying sexualised behaviour.

Ambitious College recognises that a sudden increase in sexualised behaviours may, very occasionally, be the result of sexual abuse and as such, monitors records and reports any significant changes in behaviour. All staff will follow the Ambitious about Autism Safeguarding procedures and receive training in recognising and reporting safeguarding issues.

5 Nutrition and Hydration

Staff will ensure that drinks and snacks are readily available and accessible for learners according to their dietary needs and /or support plan. The exception to this would be in the case where learners are required to have their fluid and food intake carefully monitored for health reasons (e.g. people with allergies)

Some people with autism may experience feeding or sensory difficulties around food. This should be taken into consideration in menu planning and how a learner is supported at mealtimes. Where an individual's sensory issues or feeding difficulties affect their dietary health then there should be a risk assessment around this and a collaborative approach from the Trans-disciplinary Team to support the person to eat as healthily as possible, e.g. Speech and Language feeding assessment and support plan; Occupational Therapist developed sensory diet.

Staff will always encourage learner's independence around food and drink related tasks and nutrition. Staff must ensure they follow learners Personal Care Support Plans and risk assessments around food and drink related tasks.

Infection Prevention and Control

1 This is concerned with Infection Prevention and Infection Control procedures in Ambitious College.

We must ensure adherence and compliance to the *Health & Social Care Act 2008 – Code of practice for health and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections*. It ensures that all employees are aware of their responsibilities under this Act.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to protect everyone who uses the Ambitious College premises from infection.

Other guidance to refer to includes:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Adults Policy
- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Information, advice and guidance on the use of PPE in our Schools and College during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Our approach to social distancing.

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2 Who is involved in the process

The Principal of Ambitious College is responsible for Infection Prevention and Control. This responsibility is delegated to members of the Senior Leadership Team.

3. Guidelines for managers / individuals

Ambitious College recognises that infection control is an important part of providing quality support to learners and maintaining the continued good health of all those who use, work and visit Ambitious College.

Effective prevention and control of infection must be part of everyday practice and applied consistently to everyone.

The Principal of Ambitious College will ensure that everyone who works at Ambitious College, including staff, contractors and volunteers, understand and comply with the need to prevent and control infection.

COSHH: Infection Control

Infection is an invasion of the body by micro-organisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites, usually causing damage to the person. These micro-organisms can spread from person to person, either directly or indirectly. The spread of infectious micro-organisms is known as cross infection.

As described in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002), it is not practical or ethical to identify who may be carrying an infection or how an infection will spread in the workplace, and therefore it is the policy of Ambitious College that good working practices are followed at all times to limit cross infection and create a safer working environment.

Vulnerable people

If there is a known infectious risk, line managers must consider if any of the staff exposed would be at increased risk due to their own health.

New and expectant mothers, as well as those who have a lowered immune system (such as cancer patients, or illnesses that affect immunity such as leukaemia) are considered to be vulnerable people.

In these cases, a person-specific risk assessment should be carried out (in addition to the general risk assessment), and specialist medical advice (for example from their GP, or midwife) may need to be sought. The risks to a vulnerable person may be far greater than someone with a robust immune system, and therefore, common infections such as chicken pox and rubella must be assessed alongside potentially life threatening conditions such as Hepatitis B.

The potential hazards of cross infection

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There are various ways which cross infection can occur, and it is important that these routes of infection are considered when completing an infection control risk assessment. Micro-organisms are generally spread in the following ways:

- Airborne transmissions (inhalation): micro-organisms travelling in droplets through the air (such as coughs and sneezes or contaminated dust) can be inhaled;
- Oral transmission (ingestion): micro-organisms spread from hand to mouth (for example going to the toilet and not washing your hands, then transferring micro-organisms to food which is then eaten) or from splashes of infected blood and bodily fluid to the mouth;
- Direct contact transmission (absorption): infected blood or bodily fluid comes into contact with broken skin or the eyes. Micro-organisms spread as a result of direct bodily contact from person to person, from animal to person or indirectly via inanimate objects such as bedding;
- Puncture wounds/needle-stick injuries (injection): the skin is pierced with sharp objects such as needles that have been contaminated by blood or bodily fluid which are then able to directly enter the blood stream. This also applies to other contaminated sharp objects that can cut or pierce the skin, such as knives, gardening equipment, broken glass and shattered plastics.

Controlling the risk of cross infection

It is essential that suitable and sufficient work practices and procedures are in-place and are adhered to by staff, who must all have undertaken Infection Control training within the last three years. The control measures from which the procedures are derived should be identified by a risk assessment. The following sections describe control measures that may be appropriate.

i) Hand hygiene

Hand washing is one of the most effective ways to control the spread of infection. Hands should always be washed:

- Before and after personal contact;
- After cleaning;
- Before handling food;
- Before eating, drinking or smoking;
- Before and after handling or administering medication;
- Before putting in contact lenses;
- After contact with blood and body fluids;
- After removing gloves;
- After touching or applying wounds and dressings;
- After touching contaminated objects;
- When hands look dirty;
- After any activity that contaminates hands including: using the toilet, coughing, sneezing, and handling waste – even if gloves are worn.

Antibacterial hand gels can be used instead of soap and water if you do not have access to washing facilities. However, they should not be considered as a replacement. If hands look dirty or are potentially contaminated, it is ideal to use soap and water and dry hands thoroughly afterwards.

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Staff identified as at risk from infection when providing personal care should observe the following guidelines:

- Keep nails short, clean and polish free;
- Avoid wearing jewellery such as watches, bracelets and particularly rings with ridges or stones;
- Do not wear false nails;
- Cover all cuts with waterproof dressing.

ii) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In an infection control context, it is important that people are provided with and are able to effectively use appropriate protective equipment to guard themselves and learners against infection hazards when carrying out intimate personal care and clinical tasks.

Staff engaging in personal care work will need to use disposable gloves. When wearing disposable gloves, it is important to ensure that they are non-latex (for example, vinyl or nitrile). Latex gloves must never be used, as the natural rubber latex proteins that they contain have the potential to cause irritation, dermatitis, asthma and even (in rare cases) anaphylaxis to the user as well as the learner being supported.

Single-use aprons will usually be required as well when a task is likely to cause body fluid or substances to splash onto clothing.

In some specific circumstances masks and goggles will also be required. This will be when providing intimate personal care to a learner who has been identified by a medical practitioner as carrying a disease, the presence of which necessitates the use of a 'barrier' approach. Staff will be notified by their manager where this is applicable.

In addition to the universal PPE usage guidelines, when undertaking personal care tasks, staff must be sure to observe the following:

- All PPE is to be changed between contact with different learners, or between different tasks with the same learner;
- Teeth must never be used when putting on or pulling off gloves;
- When removing gloves, they should be pulled off so that they are inside out and the contaminated side is not exposed.

iii) Immunisation

Those at higher risk of infection with hepatitis B, tetanus, and tuberculosis include staff who work with people that bite or scratch, those who work with soil or animal waste, and those who work with people living in extreme poverty, respectively.

Staff identified as at risk of infection in risk assessments are strongly advised to get a vaccination which should be available free of charge from local GPs. If an employee's GP charges for immunisations, they should inform their line manager prior to vaccination and they will arrange for the cost to be paid or reimbursed by Ambitious College.

iv) Decontamination

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It is important that the environment and equipment are adequately and appropriately decontaminated when they have been exposed to any potentially infectious substances (such as blood or bodily fluids). This is often referred to as a deep clean:

- Disposable gloves and aprons should be worn;
- Where the spillage has not yet dried, sodium hypochlorite granules should be applied. Once the granules have absorbed the liquid, then they should be removed using a disposable cloth or scoop and put carefully into a yellow clinical waste bag;
- Clean with neutral detergent and warm water, and then dry;
- Discard protective clothing as clinical waste and wash hands;
- Where the spillage is of dried material, use a sodium hypochlorite solution;
- Place the solution over the spill and where possible, leave it for 15 to 30 minutes before wiping it up;
- Where blood or body fluids are in carpets or soft furnishings the spill should be mopped up using warm water and detergent (sodium hypochlorite will discolour items) and paper towels;
- The item should then be steam cleaned or wet or dry vacuumed after the spillage has been dealt with;
- Different coloured mops and buckets should be used for different areas and colour coded to avoid confusion or cross contamination.

v) Laundry

It may be necessary to wash clothing and towels at a high temperature to kill micro-organisms.

- Hot wash cycle (80°C or 65°C for 10 minutes) with detergent or a sluice wash (if available);
- If the item cannot tolerate 80°C, then 40°C with addition of sodium hypochlorite in the penultimate rinse of the cycle is also effective;
- Laundry that is infected or soiled with blood or body fluids should be separated from other items and washed immediately;
- Protective clothing (disposable gloves and aprons) should be worn when dealing with infected or soiled laundry.

vi) Waste management

Appropriate waste management procedures must be adhered to. This includes clinical and non-clinical waste, as well as sharps disposal.

Clinical waste is defined in the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992. It refers to any waste that consists wholly or partly of: human or animal tissue, blood or bodily fluids, or excretions.

When disposing of clinical waste staff must ensure items are placed into a yellow clinical waste bag or bin. These are emptied by an approved supplier and should not be disposed of in the general waste.

vii) Staff and learners effected by vomiting and diarrhoea

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Learners who have had a dose of diarrhoea or vomiting within the preceding 24 hours should not attend College in order to prevent the spread of potential infection. Learners should not return to College until they have been free of these symptoms for more than 24 hours.

Staff who are affected by vomiting or diarrhoea should not attend work if they have had a dose within the 24 hours preceding their start time. Again staff should be free of symptoms for 24 hours or more before returning to work. Staff must follow the guidance in the Sickness Absence Policy and Procedure.

Dealing with sharps and sharps injuries

Under the Health & Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations (2013) Ambitious College is required to implement additional control measures regarding managing the risks from using or coming into contact with “sharps”. Sharps are items that could readily cause puncture or cut an individual’s skin and can include needles, knives, gardening equipment, broken glass and shattered plastic. Where possible, use of or exposure to sharps should be avoided.

Where the use of sharps is unavoidable, safer designs that include protection mechanisms (for example, retractable needles) should be used as well as safe handling procedures (for example, not recapping needles after use).

Immediately after use, sharps should be safely placed in a secure sharps box, which should be close at hand. All staff undertaking work tasks that involve the use of sharps need to have been fully trained in these techniques.

To limit the possibility of exposure to other sharps in the work environment staff should remain vigilant. Where a sharp is discovered staff should place it in a secure sharps box, if they have been trained how to do this safely. If they have not been trained, or there are additional complicating factors, a specialist contractor (approved by the local authority) will need to be commissioned; in the interim the area would need to be made safe.

Any member of staff sustaining a sharps injury will need to report this using the usual Accident & Incident procedure. If there is reason to believe that the injury may have exposed them to a blood-borne virus, they will need to seek medical attention as soon as possible so that a post-exposure prophylaxis may be administered.

Where learners use their own sharps (for example, people with diabetes) appropriate information and training should be given so that they are aware of safer designs that include protection mechanisms, and are able to use and dispose of their sharps safely.

POTENTIAL WORK RELATED DISEASES

Covid 19

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Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

It is essential that staff follow good infection control procedures. We are currently following UK government guidance on the use of PPE and Social distancing you will find more detailed information in "information advice and guidance on the use of PPE in our schools and colleges during the covid 19 pandemic" and "Our approach to social distancing in AAA", as well as "Ambitious College covid risk assessments". Each individual within the college that is deemed to be at great risk as outline by the government guidance will have a risk assessment in place and reviewed until no longer necessary and the risk level is lowered.

Blood-Borne Viruses

Blood-borne viruses (BBVs) are viruses that people carry in their blood which can cause severe disease in some people and few or no symptoms in others. The virus can spread to another person regardless of whether or not the carrier of the virus is ill. The main BBVs of concern are:

- Hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and hepatitis D virus (HDV) which cause a disease of the liver;
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), in which the immune system begins to fail.

These viruses can be found in body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. In addition, hepatitis can spread in body fluids such as faeces and vomit which are not infected with blood. Body fluids such as urine, saliva, sweat and tears carry a minimal risk of BBV infection, unless they are contaminated with blood. Care should always be taken with body fluids as the presence of blood is not always obvious. If a member of staff contracts hepatitis whilst working at Ambitious College this must be reported to the Health & Safety Executive under RIDDOR.

How can BBVs be spread in the workplace?

It is highly unlikely that staff will become infected through everyday contact with another person who has a BBV. BBVs are primarily transmitted sexually. In the

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workplace they are most likely to be transmitted through puncture wounds from needles and other sharp items contaminated with infected blood or bodily fluids. Direct exposure may also spread Hepatitis B, C and D through accidental contamination of open wounds, skin abrasions, skin damaged from conditions such as weeping eczema, being scratched or bitten leading to broken skin.

Action to take after possible infection with a BBV

If you become contaminated with blood or body fluids, you should take the following action immediately:

- If your skin is contaminated, wash it with soap and running water;
- If your skin is broken, encourage the wound to bleed, do not suck the wound – rinse thoroughly under running water;
- If your eyes are contaminated, wash them using tap water or an eye wash bottle and wash your nose or mouth with plenty of tap water – do not swallow the water;
- Record the source of contamination;
- Report the incident following the accident/incident reporting procedure;
- Inform your line manager.

Prompt medical advice is very important. Treatment might be required following a BBV infection, but to be effective, it must be start quickly. If you think you may have been infected with BBV, you should go to the nearest hospital Accident & Emergency department.

Staff responsibility

Staff with a BBV should be able to work normally unless they become ill and are no longer fit to do their job. If they become ill, they should be treated in the same way as anyone else with a long term illness. There is no legal obligation for staff to disclose they have a BBV or to take a medical test. If a member of staff is known to have a BBV, this information is strictly confidential and must not be passed on to anyone else without the person’s permission.

OTHER POTENTIALLY WORK-RELATED DISEASES

The following diseases are often associated with work environments:

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

MRSA bacteria are usually found in the throat or nose or on the skin of healthy people. It is fairly harmless until it enters the body through broken skin, abrasions, cuts, wounds or surgical incisions. Those facing the greatest risk include the elderly, those in intensive care, those with weakened immune systems, and young children and babies.

It is possible to become infected with MRSA in the following ways:

- A person can spread the bacteria from one part of their body to another by touching open wounds;
- It can be transferred by contact with an infected person’s skin;

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- Skin scales may contaminate surfaces if they become airborne, such as during tasks like bed making.

MRSA can normally be treated with an injection of antibiotics, but it is extremely resistant to them and so a high dosage over a long period of time may be necessary.

Tetanus

Tetanus is caused by tetani bacteria, which are found in soil and animal waste. Exposure to these bacteria – even through the most trivial of cuts – can lead to this serious and potentially fatal disease. Several vaccines are used to prevent tetanus and these are usually first administered at school age and then repeated on a 5 to 10 year basis.

Tuberculosis (TB)

TB is a highly infectious disease which can affect any part of the body, but will normally affect the lungs or the lymph glands.

TB is spread by tiny droplets of saliva from the coughs and sneezes of an infected person being inhaled. The chance of developing TB is raised for those who are in the following categories:

- Those in regular, close contact with an infected person;
- Those who have resided in places or countries where TB is common;
- People who experience poor health through lifestyle factors such as living in damp, overcrowded conditions or alcoholism and drug abuse;
- Young children and the elderly.

Although TB is debilitating and life threatening, it is also a curable disease and is treatable with antibiotics.

Food Guidance and Food Allergens

1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this guidance is to keep all learners and staff safe from potential hazards through the consumption or contamination of food when working in a specialist environment such as Ambitious College.

There are learners and staff in the College who have food allergies. In addition to this some of our learners engage in certain behaviours that challenge involving food which, if not managed effectively, could result in a potentially fatal outcome. It is important to note that food is not allowed to be used as a reinforcer in the College.

There are a number of procedural guidelines that all learners and staff are required to follow. These apply to food and drinks excluding water (it does not extend to water, which should be readily accessible at all times).

Ambitious College is not in a position to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, rather to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

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In recognition of this and of the impact of **nut allergies, nuts and any food containing nuts (e.g. peanut butter) or other such nut byproduct (ie almond milk) are not permitted on college grounds.**

Other related policies:

- Code of Conduct Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding
- Medication Protocol

2. Who is involved in the process and associated guidelines

- All staff in the college are responsible for ensuring that any food provided for learners, staff or visitors with a food allergy is appropriate for their needs.
- Learners and staff must not consume food in the College corridors when they are moving between classes and/or activities.
- Learning and Behaviour Specialists, Senior Learning and Behaviour Specialists, Learning Support Co-Ordinators and Lecturers must work together to ensure that the kitchen has stock or can access the necessary stock ingredients to offer suitable alternatives for learners with allergies, intolerances and coeliac disease for cooking lessons or other food-related activities.
- All staff must be vigilant that allergen information is listed on all food they are storing in the college.
- **Lunch Clubs:** staff allocated to support learners and supervise lunch clubs are responsible for cleaning away any crumbs, waste or other food leftovers after lunches and snack breaks. These must be tidied and removed from the learner accessible rooms, i.e. not placed in the bin of the classroom, and classrooms must be sanitised and ready for learning after the end of a lunch club.
- **Morning Snacks:** Teachers are responsible for removing food from their classrooms at the end of snack breaks in their lessons.

3. Staff Training

Staff who support learners during the preparation and consumption of food must complete a food safety course as part of their induction and probationary period. All training records will be maintained on the HR Access Select V2 system and will be renewed regularly in line with compliance frameworks.

Staff must sign appendix 2 after reading the food guidelines and return to their line manager to say they have read and understood the protocol.

There must be access to first-aiders in the college building at all times. All staff must be trained in the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and emergency response procedures. (See appendix 1)

Those learners who are known to have anaphylaxis because of food allergens will have individualised protocols and plans that the team will be required to follow in the event of an emergency.

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4. Good Kitchen and Support Practices

Food Storage

- Food must be stored away as soon as possible after entering the building.
- Staff must store their food in the staff room kitchens, where fridges are provided. There is one fridge allocated for gluten-free foods only in the CONEL campus. If an allergy fridge is required at our West Thames campus, then a separate fridge will be arranged.
- Learners must store their food in the fridges provided in the learner kitchen.
- It is not permitted to store food in classrooms, lockers, or other accessible areas in the college.
- At the Pears Campus at Conel the small kitchen adjacent to the store room in the ILS classroom is called the 'Kitchen Hub'. This provides secure storage space, including fridge, for select learners to reduce the risk of cross-contamination with allergens. Each learner with diagnosed allergies will have a locked cupboard to store their food safely, and information regarding their allergies and emergency procedures (in the event of consuming an allergen) are also on display in this space.

Food Preparation

- All dishes cooked or prepared with learners in the college will be from standard ingredients that have been checked for allergen contents.
- All work surfaces will be sanitised before being used to prepare food.
- Separate identifiable, industry standard, chopping boards must be available.
- Staff and learners must use aprons when preparing and cooking food.
- Equipment/utensils used in the preparation of food for people with a food allergy are to be cleaned thoroughly in the dishwashers provided. There is a dishwasher fitted in the 'Kitchen Hub' in Conel specifically for utensils used in this area.
- When cooking food all staff and learners must wash their hands before and in- between preparation tasks.
- All food produced for people with food allergies or intolerances will be placed away from other food and covered in cling film. It will then be clearly marked with the learner's name and state the diet e.g. 'vegetarian' or 'Gluten Free'

Consumption of Food

- Staff consumption of food is not permitted within the learner-accessible areas of the college. Staff may consume food in the staff kitchen or the allocated outdoor courtyard/ staff eating area on both sites.
- Learners eat their lunches in their allocated 'lunch club' location between 12.30 and 1.30pm. Snacks are permitted in classrooms between 11.00-11.15

Support to Learners

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- It is the responsibility of staff supporting learners to be aware of any food allergies or intolerances for that learner and ensure that they have access to food that is safe for them to consume.
- Staff supporting learners with food allergies who could potentially require medical assistance (e.g. Epi-Pen) must have access to and be aware of the learner's medical support plan, Emergency protocol and have completed necessary training such as EpiPen training.
- Staff supporting learners with food allergies must ensure that they are always carrying the necessary emergency medication in a locked medication bag (e.g. EpiPen) along with their Individual protocol guidance (see medication section above in the Health Care Policy).
- Staff are aware to keep cooking apparatus (e.g. toasters) and serving utensils separate to avoid cross contamination.
- All tables are cleaned with an appropriate solution after eating.

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Appendix 1

Actions in the event of someone suffering a severe allergic reaction

Note: Severe reactions can take place within a few minutes and in very extreme cases where prompt treatment is not sought – can be fatal.

Immediate action is vital.

Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction?
× generalised flushing of the skin.
× nettle rash (hives) anywhere on the body.
× sense of impending doom.
× swelling of throat and mouth.
× difficulty in swallowing or speaking.
× alterations in heart rate.
× severe asthma.
× abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting.

1. If an allergic person becomes ill, it is likely that person – or someone with them – will state that they are suffering an allergic reaction. They may use the word “ANAPHYLAXIS”
2. If the person is known to have an allergy please follow their emergency/medical support plan details, e.g. administration of Epi-Pen.
3. Dial 112 for assistance and an ambulance.
4. Request the assistance of a First Aider until the ambulance crew arrive (if in the community this might not be possible).
5. Keep calm and make the individual feel comfortable.

Staff trained in First Aid/ Anaphylaxis will be able to identify the signs of anaphylaxis. Staff trained in Epi-Pen administration will be allocated to work with learners who may need this support. Line managers should schedule this training for new staff as soon as possible.

Staff who have allergies and are known to suffer from anaphylaxis should inform their manager and have a risk assessment completed prior to supporting learners 1:1 in the community. Staff should keep Emergency Medication on their person in a locked medication bag and inform their line manager of any known allergies. (See medication section within Health Care Policy for more information).

If a protocol is in place for the person, then this should be followed

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Appendix 2
Food Guidelines

Staff statement:

I..... (PRINT NAME) have received, read and understood the Ambitious College Food Guidelines within the HealthCare Policy.

I understand that I must adhere to the guidelines as drawn out above.

Signed:

Supervisor/Manager's signature.....

Date

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