# **Medical Conditions Policy**

# Scope

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor and visitors of the Service.

# **Statement**

To support children's wellbeing and manage specific healthcare needs, allergy or relevant medical condition our Preschool will work in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Regulations to ensure health related policies and procedures are implemented. We aim to take every reasonable precaution to protect children's health and safety by explicitly adhering to individual medical management and risk management plans and responding to any emergency should they arise.

# **Legislative Requirements**

# NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALIT	QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY				
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.			
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.			
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.			
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.			

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS			
12	Meaning of a serious incident		
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policy		
86	Notification to parent of incident, injury, trauma or illness		
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record		
89	First aid kits		
90	Medical Conditions Policy		
90(1)(iv)	Medical Conditions Communication Plan		
91	91 Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents		
92	Medication record		

93	Administration of medication
94	Exception to authorisation requirement—anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
95	Procedure for administration of medication
136	First Aid qualifications
162(c) and (d)	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures are to be followed
173(2)(f)	Prescribed information to be displayed- a notice stating that a child who has been diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis is enrolled at the service
174	Time to notify certain circumstances to Regulatory Authority

# **Related Policies**

Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy Administration of First Aid Policy Administration of Medication Policy Asthma Management Policy Anaphylaxis Management Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Cystic Fibrosis Management Policy Delivery of Children to and from an ECEC Service Policy Diabetes Management Policy Enrolment Policy	Emergency Evacuation Policy Enrolment and Orientation Policy Excursion Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Nutrition, Food and Beverages and Dietary Requirements Policy Privacy Policy Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy Retention of Records Visitors, Volunteers and Students Policy
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# Goal

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations* requires approved providers to ensure services have policies and procedures in place for medical conditions. We aim to efficiently respond to and manage the medical conditions, health care needs or allergies of children and staff ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children, staff, families, and visitors at our Service.

# **Duty of Care**

Our Service has a legal responsibility to take reasonable steps to ensure the health needs of children enrolled in the service are met. This includes our responsibility to provide:

- a. a safe environment for children free of foreseeable harm and
- b. adequate supervision of children at all times.

# **Strategies**

All strategies detailed below will be implemented to the extent reasonably practicable.

# **Implementation**

We will involve all educators, families and children in regular discussions about medical conditions and general health and wellbeing throughout our curriculum. Our Service is committed to adhering to privacy and confidentiality procedures when dealing with individual health care needs, allergies or relevant medical conditions including having families provide written permission to display the child's medical management plan in prominent positions within the Service.

There are a number of concerns that must be considered when a child with a diagnosed health care need, allergy, or medical condition is enrolled at the service. Key procedures and strategies must be in place prior to the child commencing at the service to ensure their individual health, safety and wellbeing. It is imperative that all educators and volunteers at the Service follow a child's medical management plan in the event of an incident related to a child's specific health care need, allergy, or medical condition.

# The Approved Provider / Management will ensure:

- all enrolment forms are reviewed to identify any specific health care need, allergy or medical condition
- existing enrolment forms are reviewed, and parents contacted to confirm if the existing diagnosed health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition still applies and whether any new needs have been diagnosed
- parents are provided with a copy of the Service's Medical Conditions Policy and any other relevant medical conditions policy
- a child is not enrolled at, nor will attend the Service without a medical management plan and
  prescribed medication by their medical practitioner. In particular, medication for life-threatening
  conditions such as asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes must be provided at the service each day [e.g.
  asthma inhalers, adrenaline auto injection devices or insulin]
- educators, staff and volunteers have knowledge and access to this policy and relevant health management policies (Asthma Management Policy/ Anaphylaxis Management Policy/Diabetes Management Policy)
- educators, staff and volunteers have a clear understanding of children's individual health care needs, allergy or relevant medical condition that may be ongoing or acute/short term in nature
- new staff members are provided with induction and ongoing training to assist managers, educators and other staff effectively and children with medical management plans are clearly identified
- all aspects of operation of the Service must be considered to ensure inclusion of each child into the program

- a communication plan in collaboration with the Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person and lead educators to ensure communication between families and educators is on-going and effective
- staff are provided with annual anaphylaxis refresher training to provide consistent and evidencebased approaches to prevention, recognition and emergency treatment of anaphylaxis
- at least one staff member or nominated supervisor is in attendance at all times with a current accredited first aid certificate, emergency asthma management and emergency anaphylaxis management certificate (as approved by ACECQA)
- educators and staff have a clear understanding about their role and responsibilities when caring for children with a diagnosed health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition
- families provide required information on their child's health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition, including:
  - o medication requirements
  - allergies
  - o medical practitioner contact details
  - o medical management plan
- a medical management plan has been developed in consultation with parents and the child's medical practitioner and provided to the service (Appendix F) and/or
  - o an individual Allergy, Asthma or Anaphylaxis Action Plan is developed in consultation with parents and the child's medical practitioner e.g. (ASCIA) or National Asthma Council of Australia (Appendices B, C, D)
  - an individual Diabetes Management Plan is developed in consultation with parents and the child's medical practitioner (Appendix E)
- a risk minimisation plan has been developed in consultation with parents and management prior to the child commencing at the service (Appendix A)
- on commencement, provide the parent with a Mediband Medical ID Alert Wristband relevant to the medical condition, allergy, anaphylaxis or diabetes, which is to be worn by their child while in attendance at the Service
- educators and staff will be informed immediately about any changes to a child's medical management plan and risk management plan
- to record any prescribed health information and retain copies of a medical management plan, anaphylaxis management plan or asthma management plan and risk minimisation plan in the child's enrolment folder
- educators have access to emergency contact information for the child

- casual staff are informed of children and staff members who have specific medical conditions, food allergies, the type of condition or allergies they have, and the Service's procedures for dealing with emergencies involving allergies and anaphylaxis
- a copy of the child's medical management plan is visibly displayed (in an area not generally available to families and visitors) but known to all staff and volunteers in the Service
- · procedures are adhered to regarding the administration of medication at all times
- administration of medication record is accurately completed and signed by the educator and witness
- copies of children's medical management plans and medication are taken on any excursion or emergency evacuation from the service
- a notice is displayed prominently in the main entrance of the Service stating that a child diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis is being cared for or educated at the Service, and providing details of the allergen/s (regulation 173)
- information regarding the health and wellbeing of a child or staff member is not shared with
  others unless consent is provided in writing, or provided the disclosure is required or authorised
  by law under relevant state/territory legislation (including Victoria- Child Information Sharing
  Scheme (CISS) or the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS). See Child Protection
  Policy for further information regarding legal obligations to sharing of information as per CISS or
  FIVSS schemes.)

# Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person/Educators will ensure:

- in the event that of a high-risk scenario where a child suffers from an allergic reaction, incident, situation, or event related to a medical condition the Service and staff will follow the child's emergency medical management plan as per Regulation 90(1)(c)(ii)
- the first aid responder will commence first aid measures immediately as per the child's medical management plan
- urgent medical attention from a registered medical practitioner is contacted if required
- an ambulance is called by dialling 000 if the child does not respond to initial treatment
- the Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will contact the child's parent/guardian or emergency contact when practicable, but as soon as possible
- the Director/Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will ensure the *Incident, Injury, Trauma* and *Illness Record* is completed in its entirety
- the Director/Nominated Supervisor will notify the regulatory authority (within 24 hours) in the event of a serious incident.

# Families will ensure:

- they provide management with accurate information about their child's health needs, allergies, medical conditions and medication requirements on the enrolment form
- the Service enrolment form is completed in its entirety providing specific details about the child's medical condition
- they acknowledge they have received/or are provided access to the Service's *Medical Conditions*Policy and Administration of Medication Policy at time of enrolment
- they provide the Service with a medical management plan prior to enrolment of their child
- they consult with management to develop a risk minimisation plan and communication plan
- they ensure their child is wearing their Mediband Medical ID Alert Wristband when the child is in attendance at the Service. Replacement wristbands can be purchased as per *Fee Payment Policy*
- they notify the Service if any changes are to occur to the medical management plan through the communication plan and/or meetings with the nominated supervisor
- they provide adequate supplies of the required medication and medical authorisation on Administration of Medication Record
- they provide an updated copy of the child's medical management plan annually or evidence from a medical practitioner to confirm the plan remains unchanged
- they provide enrolment documentation of any medical condition annually
- they provide written consent for their child's medical management plan to be displayed in the Service.

# **Medical Management Plan**

Any medical management plan provided by a child's parents and/or registered medical practitioner should include the following:

- o specific details of the diagnosed health care need, allergy or relevant medication condition
- supporting documentation (if required)
- o a recent photo of the child
- current medication and dosage prescribed for the child
- o if relevant, state what triggers the allergy or medical condition
- first aid/emergency response that may be required
- o any medication that may be required to be administered in case of an emergency
- o further treatment or response if the child does not respond to the initial treatment
- o when to contact an ambulance for assistance

- o contact details of the medical practitioner doctor who signed the plan
- o the date of when the plan should be reviewed
- a copy of the Medical Management Plan will be displayed for Educators and staff to see to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child, whilst ensuring the child's privacy by displaying only in an area generally only available to staff of the Preschool.
- the Preschool must ensure the Medical Management Plan remains current at all times.
- educators and staff are updated immediately about any changes to a child's medical management plan

# **Risk Minimisation Plan**

All children with a diagnosed health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition must have a risk minimisation plan in place.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will arrange a meeting with the parents/guardian as soon as the Preschool has been advised of the diagnosed health care need, allergy or medical condition. During this meeting, a *Risk Minimisation Plan* (Appendix A), will be completed in consultation with the parent/guardian to ensure:

- that the risks relating to the child's specific health care need, allergy, or medical condition are assessed and minimised
- that practices and procedures in relation to the safe handling, preparation, serving and consumption of food are developed and implemented
- that the parents/families are notified of any known allergens that pose a risk to a child and strategies for minimising the risk are developed and implemented
- practices are developed and implemented to ensure that all staff members and volunteers can identify the child, the child's medical management plan and the location of the child's medication
- that the child does not attend the Preschool without medication prescribed by the child's medical practitioner in relation to the child's specific health need, allergy or medical condition
- risk minimisation plan(s) are reviewed at least annually and/or revised with each change in the medical management plan in conjunction with parents/guardians
- all relevant information pertaining to the child's health and medical condition is communicated to parents at the end of each day by educators
- parents are notified by educators in advance of any special activities taking place such as celebrations, sporting events or excursions so plans of safe inclusion can be developed.
- appropriate hygiene practices are followed by educators when managing medical conditions in accordance with the *Control of Infectious Diseases Policy*.

# **Communication Plan**

The communication plan explains how relevant staff members and volunteers are informed about the medical management and risk management plans and how the parent of the child can communicate any changes to the diagnosed health care need, allergy or medical condition.

A communication plan will be created after the meeting with the parents/guardian to ensure:

- o all relevant staff members and volunteers are informed about the *Medical Conditions Policy*, the medical management plan and risk minimisation plan for the child; and
- o an individual child communication book is created so that a parent can communicate any changes to the medical management plan and risk management plan for the child in writing.

At all times, families who have a child attending the Preschool who have a diagnosed healthcare need, allergy or medical condition will be provided with a copy of this policy and other relevant policies specific to their child's health management and communication plans.

# Resources

ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training for schools and early childhood education/care

ASCIA plans for Anaphylaxis

Coeliac Australia

Cystic Fibrosis Australia

**Diabetes Australia** 

**Epilepsy Foundation** 

National Asthma Australia

National Allergy Strategy

# **Continuous Improvement/Reflection**

Our *Medical Conditions Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

# Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). 20201. Policy and Procedure Guidelines. *Dealing with Medicals in Children Policy Guidelines*.

Australian society of clinical immunology and allergy. ASCIA.

https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

Education and Care Services National Regulations. (Amended 2023).

Federal Register of Legislation Privacy Act 1988.

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2023).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2013). Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early

childhood education and care services (5th Ed.). Australia: Commonwealth of Australia. NSW Government. (n.d.).

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Department of Education Victoria Meeting children's health needs (2020).

# **Review**

POLICY REVIEWED	JUNE 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	JUNE 2024		
FOLICI KLVILWED	JOINE 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	JOINE 2024		
VERSION NUMBER	• V12.06.23				
	<ul> <li>annual policy mair</li> </ul>	itenance			
	<ul> <li>Structural changes</li> </ul>	- separation of policy areas, n	o change to content		
MODIFICATIONS	hyperlinks checked	d and repaired as required			
	minor formatting edits within text				
	continuous improv	vement/reflection section adde	ed		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICAT	IONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE		
	policy maintenanc	e			
MARCH 2023	inclusion of legislation for information sharing schemes including -Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) for Vic. Services  JUNE 2023				
	minor formatting 6	edits within text			
	hyperlinks checked and repaired as required				
OCTOBER 2021	<ul> <li>Policy reviewed guidelines from A Conditions in Child</li> </ul>	JUNE 2022			
	National Allergy St	rategy link added			
	relevant regulation	ns updated			
	Duty of Care section	on added			
	<ul> <li>inclusion of staff a as best practice</li> </ul>				
MAY/JULY 2021	detailed procedure of management of high-risk scenarios  JUNE 2022				
	<ul> <li>resources added conditions</li> </ul>	for management of medical			
	sources checked for	for currency			
	additional informa	tion added to points			
APRIL 2020	`	g added to include diagnosed allergy or relevant medical	JUNE 2021		
	inclusion of asthm policies	na, anaphylaxis and diabetes			
	additional sources				
PRECIOUS VERSIONS	Per policy archive				
			•		

# Appendix A

# **Medical Conditions - Risk Minimisation Plan**

Child's Name:		Date of Bi	rth:
Date of Meeting:			
Meeting with:			
Director/Teacher Name	e:	Signature:	
Parent/Authorised Nor	ninee: Name:	Signature:	
What type of Additiona	al Need/Medical Condition	n/Cultural Requirement do	oes this plan refer to?
If medical, has the pare our Medical Conditions	-	ol with an action plan for th	ne child in accordance with
A copy of the Medical (	Conditions Policy given via	a hand or email Yes/No	
		ion plan has the Preschool Expiry date:	been provided with same? )
Risk is the possibility the should consider what consider what consider what consider what consider what consider when the should be sho	could go wrong, what the able to eliminate or mi	consequences could be, the	n exposed to a hazard. You nen you must do whatever (Work Health and Safety 2011).
Potential Risks	Potential Effect or Consequences	Likelihood of Harm Occurring	Strategies to Reduce or Eliminate Risks
Communication –	Educators please print, si	gn your name and date wl	nen read

# **Asthma Action Plan**



# ASTHMA ACTION PLAN what to look out for

# WHEN WELL



- you have no night-time wheezing, coughing or chest tightness
   you only occasionally have wheezing, coughing or chest tightness during the day
   you need reliever medication only occasionally or before exercise
   you can do your usual activities without getting asthma symptoms

## THIS MEANS ANY ONE OF THESE:

THIS IS AN ASTHMA FLARE-UP



## THIS MEANS:

- you have increasing wheezing, cough, chest tightness or shortness of breath
   you are waking often at night with asthma symptoms
- you need to use your reliever again within 3 hours

THIS IS A SEVERE ASTHMA ATTACK (SEVERE FLARE-UP)



## THIS MEANS:

- your symptoms get worse very quickly
- you have severe shortness of breath, can't speak comfortably or lips look blue
- you get little or no relief from your reliever inhaler

CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY: DIAL 000 SAY THIS IS AN ASTHMA EMERGENCY

DIAL 000 FOR **AMBULANCE** 

# **ASTHMA**

MEDICINES

## PREVENTERS

Your preventer medicine reduces inflammation, swelling and mucus in the airways of your lungs. Preventers need to be taken every day, even when

Some preventer inhalers contain 2 medicines to help control your asthma (combination inhalers).

## RELIEVERS

Your reliever medicine works quickly to make breathing easier by making the airways wider.

Always carry your reliever with you - it is essential for first aid. Do not use your preventer inhaler for quick relief of asthma symptoms unless your doctor has told you to do this

To order more Asthma Action Plans visit the National Asthma Council website. A range of action plans are available on the website -please use the one that best suits your patient.

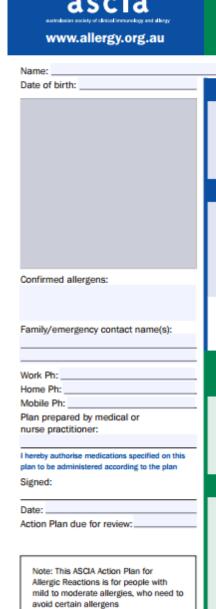
nationalasthma.org.au

Developed by the National Asthma Council Australia and supported by GSK Australia. National Asthma Council Australia retained editorial control. © 2015



# Appendix C

# **Action Plan for Allergic Reactions**



For people with severe allergies

autoinjector instructions

(and at risk of anaphylaxis) there are ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis,

which include adrenaline (epinephrine)

Instructions are also on the device label

# ACTION PLAN FOR Allergic Reactions

|--|

- . Swelling of lips, face, eyes
- · Hives or welts
- · Tingling mouth
- · Abdominal pain, vomiting (these are signs of anaphylaxis for insect allergy)

# ACTION FOR MILD TO MODERATE ALLERGIC REACTION

- · For insect allergy · flick out sting if visible
- . For tick allergy freeze dry tick and allow to drop off
- . Stay with person and call for help
- . Give other medications (if prescribed)...
- · Phone family/emergency contact

Mild to moderate allergic reactions (such as hives or swelling) may not always occur before anaphylaxis

# WATCH FOR ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SIGNS OF ANAPHYLAXIS (SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION)

- . Difficult/noisy breathing
- · Swelling of tongue
- · Swelling/tightness in throat
- Wheeze or persistent cough
- Difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- Persistent dizziness or collapse
- Pale and floppy (young children)

# **ACTION FOR ANAPHYLAXIS**

# 1 Lay person flat - do NOT allow them to stand or walk

- If unconscious, place in recovery position
- If breathing is difficult allow them to sit







- 2 Give adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector if available
- 3 Phone ambulance 000 (AU) or 111 (NZ)
- 4 Phone family/emergency contact
- 5 Transfer person to hospital for at least 4 hours of observation

If in doubt give adrenaline autoinjector

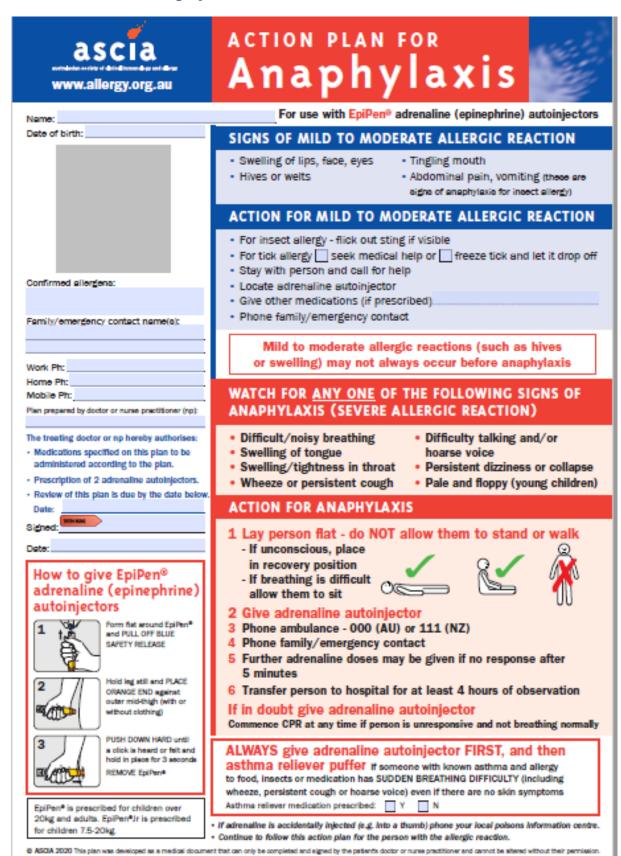
Commence CPR at any time if person is unresponsive and not breathing normally

ALWAYS give adrenaline autoinjector FIRST if available, and then asthma reliever puffer if someone with known asthma and allergy to food, insects or medication has SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY (including wheeze, persistent cough or hoarse voice) even if there are no skin symptoms

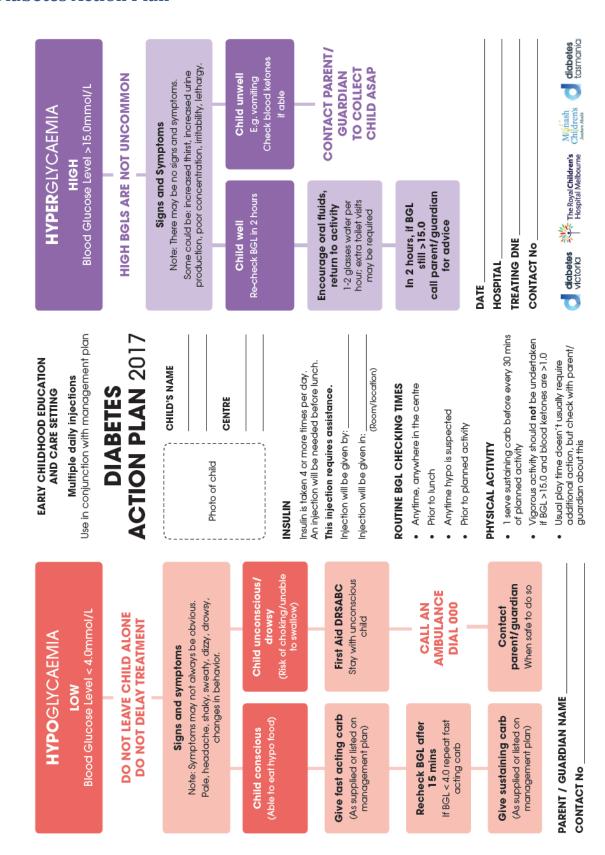
Asthma reliever medication prescribed: Y N

ASCIA 2016 This plan was developed as a medical document that can only be completed and signed by the patient's medical or nurse practitioner and cannot be altered without their permission.

# **Action Plan for Anaphylaxis**



# **Diabetes Action Plan**



# Appendix F

# **Medical Management Plan**

# MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

This form is to be completed by the child's medical practitioner and provides a description of the health condition and first aid requirements for a child with specific healthcare needs. This information will assist the Preschool in developing a Risk Minimisation Plan, which outlines how educators and staff will support the child's medical needs.

	Child's Name:			D.O.B:		
	Plan Implementation Date:	te:		Review Date:		
	Medical Practitioner Name:			Phone:		
*						
	Diagnosed medical condition:		Details, symptoms ar	nd triggers	of medical condition:	
	Photo of Child					
				Step by step action to be taken:		
	Parent/Guardian contact details:		Medication to be administered (name of medication, dose and method of application, frequency of application, further instructions.)			
	Name:					
	Mobile:					
	Work Phone:					
	Signature: Date:					
	Parent/Guardian contact details:		Steps to take if symp	otoms do no	ot improve	
	Name:					
	Mobile:					
	Work Phone: Signature:					
	Date:					
Medical Practitioners Signature:				Date:		
	Class Teacher Signatu	re:			Date:	