

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SELF-MEDICATION-Policy No. A018

Supersedes Policy No. A018, Dated 8/31/88 and 8/31/91

Recommended for Approval By Dr. Glenda M. Lawhorn, Vice President for Student Affairs

Approved By Foster F. Diebold, President on February 7, 1995

Review Date: As Required

INTENT

The intent of this policy is to establish appropriate guidelines regarding self-medication of the students who reside in on-campus residence halls at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and advocate proper procedures to insure responsible care and storage of such medication. Nothing in this policy is to be taken to relieve students of their responsibility to deal with any medication in a lawful and safe manner.

POLICY

In the usage of lawfully prescribed medication among the student population, total independence in self-medicating is generally most desirable and encouraged. Where self-medication is inhibited by physical limitations, a personal care attendant may assist the student with a disability in taking his/her medication. Indiscriminate and unauthorized distribution of prescription medicines by students or personal care workers may be harmful to the recipients and is prohibited. Such practice will be subject to disciplinary action and referred to the Office of Student Standards, and/or referred to police authorities.

PROCEDURE

- A. The program nurse of the Office for Students With Disabilities (OSD) is responsible for reviewing, from time to time, the matter of whether the prescriptions of students' with disabilities are in accordance with the physician's plan of care and will assist students in promoting maximum self-medicating capabilities, but students retain all responsibility for contacting the nurse for assistance.

- B. If students are not involved in a special program such as OSD and need assistance, the medical staff of the Ghering Health Center will be responsible for reviewing, from time to time, the matter of whether the students' prescriptions are in accordance with the physician's plan of care, but students retain all responsibility for seeking such assistance.
- C. If there is any uncertainty on the part of University staff about the ability of a student in a special program such as OSD to self-medicate, his/her physician will be contacted by an OSD staff member in order to make the decision whether or not the student is capable of self-medicating, but students retain all responsibility for initiating requests for assistance.
- D. A student who disagrees with the determination regarding his/her ability to self-medicate may submit a written request for a review conference before the Vice President for Student Affairs, or his/her designee, at which the student and the OSD Program Nurse may each present arguments as to why his or her particular point of view should be adopted. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall be final.
- E. Students are responsible for the safekeeping of their medication to avoid loss or theft.
- F. With legitimate reason(s) as determined by the Program Nurse a student with a disability may request to have the medication secured in the OSD Nurse's Station where the Program Nurse will provide storage.
- G. Medications administered by attendants shall be limited to salves, creams, pills, drops, patches, and inhalants. No personal care attendant will administer medications which are injected, nor will they assist in filling syringes for injection.
- H. Students who require assistance with injectable medications must request arrangements with the OSD Program Nurse or through the Ghering Health Center.
- I. Personal care attendants, when assisting students in taking medication, should follow all procedures as stated above relative to the distribution and safekeeping of the medication.