

I'm writing concerning the importance of reinforcing the guidelines in this act.

It's imperative that there's strong language to make mandatory the stipulation that the school nurse or principal appoint a backup for the administration of Glucagon in the event the school nurse is not available. It should not be voluntary and that requirement should not be removed. In many small towns like ours it could take an ambulance up to 20 minutes to get to a school, let alone assess the patient and determine they need a paramedic to administer Glucagon. In that scenario it could be too late. I know our district only allows the school nurse to administer Glucagon and there is no backup plan. Every child should have the right and have access to receive care and life saving medications during their time at school, especially when it could mean the difference between life and death.

Additionally, I appreciate the language around self carrying an inhaler and epi pens with a doctors orders, as that will make it much clearer for school officials. In first grade my son didn't carry his inhaler and needed it while he was downstairs in a specials class. The nurse was busy and was attempting to find his specific inhaler for over 20 minutes. If he was in full attack that would have put him in the hospital or worse, luckily it was only a minor episode. He has carried his inhaler since and always carries his epi pens. That said, there should be similar language for self carry of Glucagon. If the school is large and the Glucagon is solely stored in the nurses office with the nurse potentially unavailable, it would be easier for everyone involved if the child was allowed to self carry Glucagon with parent and doctor permission. All Type 1 children usually have a bag of supplies on them with meter, glucose tabs and other supplies, this should be no different than adding in an epi pen or spare meter. Again, as with assigning a staff member to administer Glucagon, access to Glucagon is just as important and could mean the difference between if a child lives or dies.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to outreach us with any questions.

Samantha and Douglas Merwin