



Breakaway

Epilepsy management policy

Policy Owner:	Ranbir Sidhu (Registered Manager)
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Policy Summary:

Regulations 10, 23 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2015 including the Quality Standards



A hands-on approach to help children in Slough be
..... Safe, Secure and Successful

This policy has been written to provide clarity for the safe administration of emergency rescue medication for those children and young people who have been diagnosed with Epilepsy.

Policy Statement

This policy has been developed in line with guidance from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Epilepsy in any child would have already been established by a specialist paediatrician with training and expertise in Epilepsy and that each child will have their own individual Epileptic Care Plan devised by a qualified health care professional.

In order to safely and effectively support the care needs of children requiring Buccolam Oromucosal Solution (emergency rescue medication), all staff require training and this will be delivered by appropriately qualified medical staff and will need to be completed for each individual named child. Generic training is provided by SSN team on Epilepsy, Anaphylaxis, Stoma site, Asthma prior to individual care plan training.

As of 2023, CCN team train staff on epileptic care plans for children who have severe epilepsy only. The CCN team will share the annually updated epilepsy care plan for all children diagnosed with epilepsy.

Buccolam is prescribed for children and young people who require emergency treatment for seizures to prevent 'status epilepticus', which can result in brain damage or death. Status epilepticus is a condition characterised by a seizure (convulsion or fit) or a series of seizures that last for 30 minutes or more without complete recovery of consciousness. If a seizure continues for more than five minutes, it may not stop unless rapid treatment is given.

Buccolam is prescribed by a medical practitioner and must have clear guidelines for its administration in the form of a care plan. Recommendations by the Joint Epilepsy Council state that it is the employer's responsibility to ensure that staff are adequately trained and up-to-date in the administration of Buccolam.

Aim

The purpose of this policy is set out guidelines for the safe use of emergency rescue medication for children who have been diagnosed with Epilepsy. The main aim of the policy is to safeguard:-

- Children, aged between 6 and 18 years of age, who have been diagnosed as having Epilepsy and who require the administration of emergency rescue medication
- Staff at Breakaway

Policy Details

For the administration of emergency rescue medication by trained staff at Breakaway, the following must be in place:

- The child must have a diagnosis by a medical professional and an up to date care plan (i.e. updated annually or as when required). Permission from the parent/carer must be sought to hold a copy of the plan on file.
- Epilepsy training must have been undertaken covering both Epilepsy Awareness and the administration of rescue medication (Buccolam), prior to the child receiving care at Breakaway on their own without a parent/carer present. The Epilepsy Awareness training must be provided by medical professionals but the Epilepsy Care Plan training must be provided by the medical professional who wrote the plan.

- Once training has taken place a copy of the plan with staff's names, signatures, date and sign off by the medical professional facilitating the training must be held at Breakaway.
- Breakaway staff will be guided by the child's Care Plan as to when Buccolam is administered and when to call an ambulance.
- Emergency First Aid at Work and Administration of Medication training must also have been undertaken prior to care of the child who has been prescribed emergency rescue medication.
- Annual training for staff in both Epilepsy Awareness, emergency rescue medication and of each individual child's care plan.

Surveillance and Risk Management

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or sooner if practitioners identify any risks to the child/staff.

Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy will be through individual child reviews and in consultation with the Berkshire Health Care NHS Foundation Trust.

The use of any monitoring or surveillance systems can only be used for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child or other children living in the home. Monitoring systems which may be used include; CCTV, door alarms, visual and listening devices. Where a child has an illness or disability which requires ongoing supervision, Breakaway will use listening devices (audio only) overnight to ensure they can safely monitor any episodes which may occur. Consent will be obtained from children's parents and a surveillance letter providing information on this will be shared with them.

Please refer to 'Monitoring and Surveillance' policy for details.

Training

Training will be annually in Epilepsy Awareness, emergency rescue medication (Buccolam) and of each individual child's care plan.

Attachment:

Surveillance Letter for parents