

Becketts House  
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Tel 0203 182 3133

Ref SP/GK/42/2018

Dear Head Teacher,

**Re: The provision of salbutamol inhalers for schools**

We understand that the parents of [.....] have recently been asked by your school to obtain extra salbutamol inhaler(s) to be kept at the school for emergencies.

Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) Area Prescribing sub-Committees (APC) have agreed that salbutamol inhalers prescribed by local GPs should be carried in person by the patient, with no emergency salbutamol inhalers being prescribed to be kept at the school.

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 the amendments to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 enabled schools to keep salbutamol inhaler(s), if they wish, for use in emergencies when a pupil's inhaler is unavailable, broken, empty or has expired. This change applies to all schools in the UK. Schools which choose to keep an emergency inhaler should establish a policy or protocol for the use of the emergency inhaler based on this guidance. From this date onwards, schools can buy inhalers and spacers (the plastic funnels which make it easier to deliver asthma medicine to the lungs) from a pharmaceutical supplier. The Department of Health Guidance on supplying asthma inhalers to schools for emergency use can be accessed via the link below-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-to-allow-the-supply-of-salbutamol-asthma-inhalers-in-schools-for-emergency-use-mlx385>

With these regulatory changes, allowing schools to purchase salbutamol inhalers, BHR CCGs have reminded its prescribers that provision of emergency inhalers for schools is the responsibility of the school, any request to prescribe salbutamol inhalers to keep at the school should be refused. We hope this clarifies the situation.

Yours faithfully,

*Gurkirit Kalkat*

Dr G Kalkat  
Prescribing lead Barking  
Dagenham CCG

*Alex Tran*

Dr A Tran  
Prescribing lead Havering CCG

*Syed Raza*

Dr S Raza  
Prescribing lead Redbridge CCG and

Co-Chairs, Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups Area Prescribing sub-Committees

Approved by BHR CCGs Area Prescribing sub-Committees: February 2018