

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

QUALITY AREA 2 | VERSION 1.6

Adopted by Approved Provider of Golden Plains Shire Council Children's Services	Month / Year
Date revised	March 2025
Next revision due	March 2027



PURPOSE

This policy will provide a framework for:

- ensure Early Childhood Teachers, educators, and all other staff and families are aware of their obligations and the best practice management of asthma at all Golden Plains Shire Council operated ECEC services
- ensure that all necessary information for the effective management of children with asthma enrolled at a Golden Plains Shire Council ECEC is collected and recorded so that these children receive appropriate attention when required.
- ensuring Asthma Action Plans are provided by parents/guardians for the child prior to commencement
- develop Medical Management Plan in consultation with parents/guardians
- respond to the needs of children who have not been diagnosed with asthma and who experience breathing difficulties (suspected asthma attack) at the service
- ensure ECT's and all staff and families follow the advice from Emergency Management Victoria associated with thunderstorm asthma event.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Golden Plains Shire Council operated Early Childhood Education and Care services are committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for all children enrolled at the service.
- providing an environment in which all children with asthma can participate to their full potential.
- providing a clear set of guidelines and procedures to be followed with regard to the management of asthma.
- educating and raising awareness about asthma among educators, staff, families and any other person(s) dealing with children enrolled at the service.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, all staff, students, volunteers, families, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Golden Plains Shire Council operated ECEC services, including during offsite excursions and activities.

Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility. While Golden Plains Shire Council operated ECEC services recognise its duty of care towards children with asthma during their time at the service, the responsibility for ongoing asthma management rests with the child's family and registered medical practitioner.

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 1 of 14

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators, and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
R indicates legislation requirement, and s	hould not l	oe deleted			
Providing all staff with access to the service's Asthma Management Policy, and ensuring that they are aware of asthma management strategies (refer to Procedures) upon employment at the service	R	√			
Providing families with access to the service's Asthma Management Policy and Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy upon enrolment of their child (Regulation 90, 91)	R	√			
Ensuring that induction procedures for casual and relief staff include information about children attending the service who have been diagnosed with asthma, and the location of their medication and action plans	R	R			
Providing approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training (refer to Definitions) to staff as required under the National Regulations 136	R	√			
Ensuring at least one staff member with current approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training <i>(refer to Definitions)</i> is on duty at all times	R	√			
Ensuring that all educators approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management training and Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training are current (within the previous 3 years), meet the requirements of the National Law (Section 169(4)) and National Regulations (Regulation 136, 137), and are approved by ACECQA	R	٧			
Maintaining current approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) (refer to Definitions) qualifications					
Ensuring the details of approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training <i>(refer to Definitions)</i> is included on the staff record <i>(refer to Definitions)</i>	R	√			
Acting on advice and warnings from the Department's Emergency Management Division associated with a potential thunderstorm asthma activity, and implement a communication strategy to inform families	R	√	√		V
Implementing procedures to avoid exposure, such as staying indoors with windows and doors closed associated with a potential thunderstorm asthma	R	V	V		V
Identifying children with asthma during the enrolment process and informing staff	R	V			
Ensuring families provide a copy of their child's Asthma Action Plan (refer to Definitions and Attachment 2), in consultation (if possible) with their registered medical practitioner, following enrolment and prior to	R	V		√	

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 2 of 14

the child commencing at the service (Regulation 90). The Asthma Action Plan should be reviewed and updated at least annually					
Developing a Medical Management Plan (refer to Definitions and Attachment 3) for every child with asthma, in consultation with families	R	V	√	V	
Developing and implementing a communication plan (refer to Definitions) ensuring that relevant staff members and volunteers are informed about the child medical conditions policy, the Asthma Action Plan and Risk Minimisation Plan for the child in consultation with families (Regulation 90 (c) (iv)(A)(B)) (refer to Dealing with Medical Conditions)	R	V	V	V	√
Maintaining ongoing communication between ECT/educators/ staff and families in accordance with the strategies identified in the communication plan (refer to Definitions), to ensure current information is shared about specific medical conditions within the service (refer to Dealing with Medical Conditions)	R	V	٧		
Ensuring all details on their child's enrolment form and medication record (refer to Definitions) are completed prior to commencement at the service				√	
Ensuring a copy of the child's Asthma Action Plan is accessible and known to staff in the service. (Regulations 90 (iii)(D)). Prior to displaying the Asthma Action Plan, the nominated supervisor must explain to families the need to display the plan for the purpose of the child's safety and obtain their consent (refer to Privacy and Confidentiality Policy)	R	V		V	
Ensuring that all children with asthma have an Asthma Action Plan and Medical Management Plan (which includes both Risk Minimisation and Communication Plans) filed with their enrolment record	R	√		V	
Notifying staff, in writing, of any changes to the information on the Asthma Action Plan, enrolment form or medication record				$\sqrt{}$	
Providing an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication and equipment for their child at all times and ensuring it is appropriately labelled with the child's name				V	
Consulting with the families of children with asthma in relation to the health and safety of their child, and the supervised management of the child's asthma	R	V		V	
Communicating any concerns to families if a child's asthma is limiting their ability to participate fully in all activities	V	V	√		
Compiling a list of children with asthma and placing it in a secure, but readily accessible, location known to all staff. This should include the Asthma Action Plan for each child	V	٧	V		
Ensuring that they can identify children displaying the symptoms of an asthma attack and locate their personal medication, Asthma Action Plans and the asthma first aid kit	R	V	V		
Ensuring that medication is administered in accordance with the child's Asthma Action Plan and the <i>Administration of Medication Policy</i>	R	R	R		
Ensuring a medication record is kept for each child to whom medication is to be administered by the service (Regulation 92)	R	V	V		

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 3 of 14

Ensuring families of all children with asthma provide reliever medication and a spacer (including a child's face mask, if required) at all times their child is attending the service	R	V		R	
Implementing an asthma first aid procedure (refer to Procedures) consistent with current national recommendations	R	R	R		
Ensuring that all staff are aware of the asthma first aid procedure	R	V			
Ensuring adequate provision and maintenance of asthma first aid kits (refer to Definitions)	R	V			
Ensuring the expiry date of reliever medication is checked regularly and replaced when required, and that spacers and face masks that are from the services first aid kits are replaced after every use	R	V	V		
Facilitating communication between management, ECT, educators, staff and families regarding the service's <i>Asthma Management Policy</i> and strategies	R	√			
Identifying and minimising asthma triggers (refer to Definitions) for children attending the service as outlined in the child's Asthma Action Plan, where possible	R	√	V		
Ensuring that children with asthma are not discriminated against in any way	V	V	V		V
Ensuring programmed activities and experiences take into consideration the individual needs of all children, including any children with asthma		√	V		V
Ensuring that children with asthma can participate in all activities safely and to their full potential		√	V		V
Immediately communicating any concerns with families regarding the management of children with asthma at the service	R	√	V		
Displaying Asthma Australia's Asthma First Aid poster (refer to Sources and Attachment 3) in key locations at the service	R	1			
Ensuring that medication is administered in accordance with the Administration of Medication Policy	R	R	R		
Ensuring that when medication has been administered to a child in an asthma emergency without authorisation from the parent/guardian or authorised nominee, medical practitioner, or emergency services the parent/guardian of the child and emergency services are notified as soon as is practicable (Regulation 94)	R	R	R		
Following appropriate reporting procedures set out in the <i>Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy</i> in the event that a child is ill, or is involved in a medical emergency or an incident at the service that results in injury or trauma	R	R	R		√
Ensuring an Asthma Emergency Kit (refer to Definitions) is taken on all excursions and other offsite activities (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)	R	R	V		

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 4 of 14



PROCEDURES

Asthma Australia's Asthma First Aid 2023: AAFA-First-Aid-2023-A3 CMYK v10 Blue-1.pdf (asthma.org.au)



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Asthma is a chronic, treatable health condition that affects approximately one in nine Australian children and is one of the most common reasons for childhood admission to hospital. With good asthma management, people with asthma need not restrict their daily activities. Community education assists in generating a better understanding of asthma within the community and minimising its impact.

Symptoms of asthma include wheezing, coughing (particularly at night), chest tightness, difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath, and symptoms may vary between children. It is generally accepted that children under six years of age do not have the skills and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma without adult assistance. With this in mind, a service must recognise the need to educate staff and families about asthma and promote responsible asthma management strategies.

Legislation that governs the operation of approved children's services is based on the health, safety and welfare of children, and requires that children are protected from hazards and harm. The approved provider will ensure that there is at least one educator on duty at all times who has current approved emergency asthma management training in accordance with the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (Regulation 136(c))*. As a demonstration of duty of care and best practice, ELAA recommends all educators have current approved emergency asthma management training *(refer to Definitions)*.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Health Records Act 2001 (Vic)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (Vic)

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation Federal Register of Legislation: <u>www.legislation.gov.au</u>



DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g. Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable complaints, Serious incidents, Duty of care, etc. refer to the Definitions file of the PolicyWorks catalogue.

Approved Emergency Asthma Management (EAM) training: Training that is approved by the National Authority in accordance with Division 7 of the National Regulations and is listed on the ACECQA website: http://www.acecqa.gov.au. EAM training provides knowledge about the underlying causes of asthma, asthma triggers, and the recognition and treatment of an asthma attack.

Asthma Action Plan: A record of information on an individual child's asthma and its management, including contact details, what to do when the child's asthma worsens and the treatment to be administered in an

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 5 of 14

emergency. An Asthma Action Plan template specifically for use in children's services can be downloaded from Asthma Australia's website: www.asthma.org.au (refer to Attachment 2)

Asthma emergency: The onset of unstable or deteriorating asthma symptoms requiring immediate treatment with reliever medication.

Asthma Emergency Kit: Kits should contain:

- reliever medication
- 2 small volume spacer devices
- 2 compatible children's face masks (for children under the age of four)
- · record form
- asthma first aid instruction card.

The Asthma Australia recommends that spacers and face masks are for single use only. It is essential to have at least two spacers and two face masks in each first aid kit, and these should be replaced once used. These used items can be provided to the child/family as a means of suitability.

Asthma triggers: Things that may induce asthma symptoms, for example, pollens, colds/viruses, dust mites, smoke and exercise. Asthma triggers will vary from child to child.

Communication plan: indicates which educators have read and understood the child's individualised Asthma Management Plan and forms part of the Medical Management Plan

Medication record: Contains details for each child to whom medication is to be administered by the service. This includes the child's name, signed authorisation to administer medication and a record of the medication administered, including time, date, dosage, manner of administration, name and signature of person administering the medication and of the person checking the medication, if required (Regulation 92). A sample medication record is available on the ACECQA website.

Metered dose inhaler (puffer): A common device used to administer reliever medication.

Puffer: The common name for a metered dose inhaler.

Reliever medication: This comes in a blue/grey metered dose inhaler containing salbutamol, an ingredient used to relax the muscles around the airways to relieve asthma symptoms. This medication is always used in an asthma emergency. Reliever medication is commonly sold by pharmacies as Airomir, Asmol, Ventolin or Zempreon.

Medical Management Plan: Provides information about child-specific asthma triggers and strategies to help avoid these triggers in the service *(refer to Attachment 3)*. The Medical Management Plan also contains information on the child, parents, medication, action plan and communication plan.

Risk Minimisation Plan: Forms part of the Medical Management Plan

Spacer: A plastic chamber device used to increase the efficiency of delivery of reliever medication from a puffer. It should always be used in conjunction with a puffer device and may be used in conjunction with a face mask.

Staff record: Must be kept by the service and include details of the Nominated Supervisors, the educational leader, other staff members, volunteers and the Responsible Person. The record must include information about qualifications, training and details of the *Working with Children* Check (Regulations 146–149). A sample staff record is available on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au



SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- Asthma Australia: <u>www.asthma.org.au</u> or phone 1800 278 462 (toll free)
- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): <u>www.acecqa.gov.au</u>
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, ACECQA.

RELATED POLICIES

- Administration of Medication
- Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reactions

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 6 of 14

- Dealing with Medical Conditions
- Emergency and Evacuation
- Excursions and Service Events
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Staffing



EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (Regulation 172 (2)).



ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Asthma Action Plan download from the Asthma Australia website: https://asthma.org.au/treatment-diagnosis/asthma-action-plan/
- Attachment 2: Asthma First Aid poster 2023

 download from the Asthma Australia website:

 <u>AAFA-First-Aid-2023-A3 CMYK v10 Blue.pdf</u>
- Attachment 3: Golden Plains Medical Management & Communication Plan- Medical Management Plan.docx



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Golden Plains Shire Council on 31/03/2025.

REVIEW DATE: March 2027



QA2 – Asthma Management Page 7 of 14

ATTACHMENT 1: SAMPLE ASTHMA ACTION PLAN

	Name:		EMERGENCY CONTACT
	Plan date:	Review date:	Name:
Photo (optional)	Doctor details:		Phone:
	J [Relationship:
✓ needing no more ✓ no asthm ✓ no asthm ✓ can do a	ONTROLLED is all of these reliever medicine than 2 days/week na at night na when I wake up II my activities	TAKE preventer Name	
needing re than usual woke up o had asthm can't do al	Asthma symptoms getting worse such as any of these diever medicine more OR more than 2 days/week vernight with asthma a when I woke up I my activities	morning night puffs, finh TAKE reliever Hame START other medicine Hame/dose/days/other treatment	alations for days then back to well controlled dose puffs/inhalation as needed
reliever me woke up fr had asthm difficulty b	ding (if used) between and	TAKE preventer Name	S
reliever m can't spea extreme d	NCY is any of these edicine not working at all k a full sentence ifficulty breathing ia is out of control g blue	Dial Tr	L AMBULANCE NOW iple Zero (000) RT ASTHMA FIRST AID age for Asthma First Aid

If you are using a dual purpose reliever, your doctor will discuss the correct plan for you.

v19 Updated 13 October 2023

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 8 of 14

ASTHMA FIRST AID

Blue/Grey Reliever

Airomir, Asmol, Ventolin or Zempreon and Bricanyl

Blue/grey reliever medication is unlikely to harm, even if the person does not have asthma



DIAL TRIPLE ZERO (000) FOR AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY IF THE PERSON:

- · is not breathing
- · suddenly becomes worse or is not improving
- . is having an asthma attack and a reliever is not available
- · is unsure if it is asthma
- has a known allergy to food, insects or medication and has SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY, GIVE ADRENALINE **AUTOINJECTOR FIRST (if available)**





SIT THE PERSON UPRIGHT

- Be calm and reassuring
- . Do not leave them alone



SEPARATE RELIEVER PUFFER

- Shake puffer
- Put 1 puff into spacer
- Take 4 breaths from spacer
 - Repeat until 4 separate puffs have been taken



If using Bricanyl (5 years or older)

- Do not shake. Open, twist around and back, and take a deep breath in
- Repeat until 2 separate inhalations have been taken

If you don't have a spacer handy in an emergency, take 1 puff as you take 1 slow, deep breath and hold breath for as long as comfortable. Repeat until all puffs are given





WAIT 4 MINUTES If breathing does not return to normal, give 4 more separate puffs of reliever as above



Bricanyl: Give 1 more inhalation

IF BREATHING DOES NOT RETURN TO NORMAL





DIAL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

- . Say 'ambulance' and that someone is having an asthma attack
- Keep giving 4 separate puffs every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives



Bricanyl: Give 1 more inhalation every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives









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QA2 - Asthma Management Page 9 of 14

ATTACHMENT 2: ASTHMA FIRST AID POSTER

<u>ASTHMA FIRST AID</u>

Blue/Grey Reliever

Airomir, Asmol, Ventolin or Zempreon and Bricanyl

Blue/grey reliever medication is unlikely to harm, even if the person does not have asthma



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- has a known allergy to food, insects or medication and has SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY, GIVE ADRENALINE AUTOINJECTOR FIRST (if available)





SIT THE PERSON UPRIGHT

- Be calm and reassuring
- . Do not leave them alone





GIVE 4 SEPARATE PUFFS OF RELIEVER

- Shake puffer
- . Put 1 puff into spacer
- . Take 4 breaths from spacer
 - Repeat until 4 separate puffs have been taken



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- Keep giving <u>4 separate puffs every</u>
 <u>4 minutes</u> until emergency assistance arrives
- Bricanyl: Give 1 more inhalation every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives



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QA2 – Asthma Management Page 10 of 14

ATTACHMENT 3: MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



Medical Management Plan [excl. Allergy & Anaphylaxis]

		Date i	Plan Completed://	
SECTION A – Child Details (This section to be completed by pare	nt/guardian)		
Child's Name:				
Date of Birth:				
Kindergarten Name:			Insert child's photo	
Illness/Condition:				
Nominated Supervisor:				
SECTION B – Parent/Guard	lian Contact Details (This section to	be completed by pare	ent/guardian)	
Primary Parent/Guardian Name:				
Mobile:		Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		Relationship to child:	:	
Secondary Parent/Guardian Name:				
Mobile:		Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		Relationship to child:	:	
SECTION C — Medical Contact Details (This section to be completed by parent/guardian)				
Doctor's Name:		Phone:		
Medical Centre/Practice Name:				
Medical Centre/Practice Addr	ess:			

Medical Management Plan [excl. Allergy & Anaphylaxis]

Page 1 of 4

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 11 of 14

SECTION D — Child Health Care Planning (This section to be completed by parent/guardian)	
Condition, symptoms and triggers:	
Is this condition likely to occur whilst the child is at the service? Yes No	
If yes, how frequently does the condition occur?	
Are there any factors or situations that may trigger the condition? Yes □ No □	
If yes, please describe:	
Are there any limitations on participation in activities? Yes No	
If yes, please provide details:	
Are there any procedures in relation to the safe handling, preparation and consumption of food that we should be aware of? Yes No	
If yes, please provide details:	
SECTION E — Daily Management (This section to be completed in consultation with parent/guardian)	
List strategies that would minimize the risk of triggering the condition:	

Medical Management Plan [excl. Allergy & Anaphylaxis]

Page 2 of 4

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 12 of 14

SECTION F – Medication (This section to be completed in consultation with parent/guardian)					
	Medication 1	Medication 2	Medication 3		
Name of Medication:					
Medication Expiry Date:					
Where is the medication stored:					
SECTION G – Action Plan (This	section to be completed in	consultation with parent/g	;uardian)		
Step by Step actions to be taken:					
SECTION H – Consent					
I confirm that the information documented in this plan is true and correct at the time of signature and provide my consent for					
the administration of medication I understand that this plan is valid			-		
health care requirements.					
I understand that this plan will be displayed in an area accessible by educators and staff responsible for your child's education and care at that the information in this document will not be used for any other purpose other than to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child.					
Primary Parent/Guardian Name:					
Signature:			Date:		
As Nominated Supervisor I confin Parent/Guardian.		ent Plan was completed in co	sultation with the		
Nominated Supervisor Name:					
Signature:			Date:		

Medical Management Plan [excl. Allergy & Anaphylaxis]

Page 3 of 4

QA2 – Asthma Management Page 13 of 14

SECTION I – Educator Communication Plan				
I have read and understood (in consultation with the nominated supervisor) this child's individualised Medical Management Plan and Risk Management Plan and know where to locate this plan in the case of an emergency:				
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		
Educators Name:		Educators Signature:		

Date of next review:

Medical Management Plan [excl. Allergy & Anaphylaxis]

Page 4 of 4