January 16, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Revised Parent Prescriber Authorization Form

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) Medication Curriculum has been revised. The curriculum currently states: "The authority for licensed school nurses administering prescription medication to a student must come from the prescriber and the parent/guardian. The signed parent prescriber’s authorization (PPA) is required at the time of the order and remains valid for one calendar year."

There are two significant changes in the PPA that will be effective starting January 1, 2019. The changes were made to ensure utilization of nurses according to the acuity of the students, and to ensure that nurses are communicating properly with the prescriber. The changes are as follows:

- Documentation of the Emergency Drug requirements during bus transportation to and from school will be added to the physician order. This option may be used for students who have short bus rides and are stable enough to not require medication and/or a nurse on the bus.
- The current statement: "I also authorize the School Nurse to talk with the prescriber or pharmacist should a question come up regarding the medication" has been deleted from the PPA form. The Alabama Board of Nursing Administrative Code now states: "The licensed nurse shall exercise decision-making skills when administering medication, to include but not limited to, when to contact the prescriber." Additionally, the nurse has a responsibility to ensure that the right patient, right medication, and right dose are given.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jennifer Ventress, Nurse Administrator, at 334-694-4717 or by email at jventress@alsde.edu.

EGM/JV/KM

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