



**JOINT ADVISORY OPINION ISSUED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA
BOARDS OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS, NURSING AND PHARMACY
REGARDING OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOLS**

The Healthcare Collaborative Committee, comprised of representatives from the South Carolina Boards of Medical Examiners, Nursing and Pharmacy, convened on August 30, 2013, to consider materials submitted by Cathy Young-Jones, South Carolina's School Nurse Consultant, for consideration. The South Carolina Boards of Medical Examiners, Nursing and Pharmacy subsequently convened separately¹ and hereby collectively approve and adopt the recommendations of the Healthcare Collaborative Committee, as follows:

- (1) It is within the scope of practice for an RN or LPN to administer over-the-counter medications in a school setting with parental consent, but without a medical order from an authorized licensed provider. However, if the over-the-counter medication is prescribed by an authorized licensed provider, then the over-the-counter medication must be treated like a prescription medication as set forth in S.C. Code Ann. § 40-43-86.
- (2) An authorized licensed prescriber may not write standing orders for over-the-counter medications for students with whom they do not have a physician-patient relationship as described in S.C. Code Ann. § 40-47-113.
- (3) (a) In the case of a prescribed over-the-counter medication, the school may not accept the medication in the manufacturer's labeled container purchased off the shelf and attach a tag with the student's name. Prescribed over-the-counter medications must be treated in all respects as a prescription drug and all prescription drug labeling requirements shall apply as set forth in S.C. Code Ann. §40-43-86.

(b) In the case of an over-the-counter medication for which no prescription exists, nothing in the Medical Practice Act, Nurse Practice Act or Pharmacy Practice Act prevents a school and/or school nurse from accepting over-the-counter medication in the manufacturer's original packaging with a tag bearing the student's name attached.
- (4) The school may maintain a stock supply of commonly prescribed over the counter medications to avoid having to store multiple students' medications.

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¹ The Board of Medical Examiners approved this joint advisory opinion on September 24, 2013. The Board of Nursing approved this joint advisory opinion on September 26, 2013. The Board of Pharmacy approved this joint advisory opinion on September 18, 2013.