

	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources				
	MANUAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES				
Section	Housing & Institution	Date	April 5, 2007	Procedure #	H-21
Subject	Syrup Of Ipecac In Child Care Centers			Page	1 of 1

Section 16.4 of West Virginia's legislative rule, Child Care Centers, 64 CSR 21, requires syrup of ipecac to be provided as a component of a first aid kit. The rule also states that syrup of ipecac shall be used only with prior authorization from the parent and at the direction of a poison control center or the child's physician. The purpose of its use is to induce emesis or vomiting.

Since the Child Care Center rule was last revised in 1997, the recommendations of the medical community regarding the use of syrup of ipecac have changed.

- The WV Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) very rarely advises the use of syrup of ipecac and recommends that our rule be revised to omit the requirement for this product.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a policy statement on poison treatment in the home in which they recommend that syrup of ipecac no longer be used routinely as a poison treatment intervention, and that parents should safely dispose of the syrup of ipecac currently in their homes.
- Syrup of ipecac is no longer routinely stocked as an over-the-counter product in retail stores.

Based on these factors, the next revision of our Child Care Center rule will not require syrup of ipecac as a component of a first aid kit. In the meantime, local health departments are advised to waive the requirement for syrup of ipecac in child care centers. Current supplies of syrup of ipecac in child care centers may be maintained if desired by the owner or operator.

References

History

Policy established from letter dated November 3, 2004

Attachments