September 23, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Administrators of Nonpublic Schools
Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

FROM: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services and Career Readiness

SUBJECT: Asthma Treatment Plan Requirement

Asthma is the leading chronic illness among children and youth in the United States and a leading cause of absenteeism, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts and nonpublic schools that the asthma treatment plan (ATP) form issued by the Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey (PACNJ) was recently updated and is available at http://www.pacnj.org/plan.html. The ATP form was developed through a collaborative effort with the New Jersey Departments of Education and Health, the New Jersey State School Nurse Association and the PACNJ in order to reduce the burden placed on districts in the development of their own forms and the duplication of fees assessed to parents of children with asthma (for completing two forms) upon visiting their health care providers. Because the ATP form identifies, at a minimum, the individual student’s asthma triggers and allows for prescriptive information, including the use of inhalers and nebulizer treatments, it meets the requirements at N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.3 and 12.8b. Additionally, a PACNJ resource for parents of students with asthma is available at http://www.pacnj.org/pdfs/ParentTool.pdf that your school nurse may want to share with the parents and guardians of students who have asthma.

Thank you for your continued support of student health and wellness. If you have questions, please contact Christene DeWitt-Parker, coordinator, School Health Services, at schoolhealthservices@doe.state.nj.us.

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