

# LEARNER RELATED POLICY: MEDICAL POLICY FOR STUDENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

This policy is bi-annually reviewed to ensure compliance with current regulations

<b>Approved/reviewed by</b>	
<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>	
<b>Date of next review</b>	<b>January 2021</b>

This policy and procedure is subject to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual orientation, Disability, Socio-Economic Disadvantage

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION WITH MEDICAL NEEDS INCLUDING MANAGING PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION**

Boston College recognises that students living in the Hall of Residence will at certain times have medical needs. This document gives guidance on the policy and procedure for accessing appropriate medical care including managing medication.

### **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Boston College will ask all International students who are offered a place to study and all local students who occupy a room in the Hall of Residence to make a declaration about their health and well-being.

All International students under the age of 18 years will be asked to provide the authorisation of their parent or guardian for them to receive emergency medical treatment including the use of anaesthetics and blood transfusions. This authorisation will be considered to be adequate to cover the student for all situations whilst they are at the College – for example on trips and activities arranged by the International office and by curriculum staff as well as whilst they are in the Hall of Residence or in their Homestay setting.

Any student attaining the age of 18 years whilst they are resident at Boston College will be considered to be capable of making their own decisions regarding their medical treatment and they are expected to have discussed this with their families prior to arrival at Boston College.

### **PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES**

Students may require prescribed medication for short term conditions, e.g. antibiotics, or for longer term conditions, e.g. epilepsy. These medicines could have been prescribed by a doctor or clinician in their home country and brought to the UK or they could be prescribed by medical services locally since arriving in the UK.

Boston College must identify the necessary Health and Safety measures to support such students and together with parents in the case of a student under the age of 18, ensure that they and others are not put at risk.

Students living in the Hall of Residence who require prescription medication for a long-term condition will be expected to bring their medication to College with them when they arrive. It should be in its original packaging showing the name of the person it is prescribed for as well as the name of the medication and the dosage.

Before travelling to the UK with their prescription medicine, students should also check the current guidance on bringing controlled drugs into the UK. Advice is available here - <https://www.gov.uk/travelling-controlled-drugs>.

Students living in the Hall of Residence who require short term prescription medicine will be expected to keep their medication in its original packaging showing the name of the person it is prescribed for as well as the name of the medication and the dosage.

Students who require prescription medicines will be expected to store their medication in a safe and responsible manner. They will be responsible for managing their medication themselves and Boston College will not store or administer medication for any student. The only exception to this would be in the case of anaphylactic shock where the student cannot use their auto-injector themselves.

Where prescribed medication needs to be stored in a refrigerator, students may not use the refrigerators provided by the College for the use of all students.

Students using inhalers and EpiPens will be expected to keep these with them at all times and to use them as prescribed by their doctor.

All students are expected to understand the danger of prescription medicines and that they are only to be used by the person they are prescribed for. Medication should never be shared.

### **NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES**

College staff will not give non-prescribed tablets such as Paracetamol to students. They may not know whether the student has taken a previous dose, or whether the tablet may react with other medication taken.

College staff will support students to manage their health and wellbeing whilst they are living away from home. They may suggest the use of non-prescription medicines.

### **SEEKING MEDICAL HELP**

First Aiders are available during the day at College and can be contacted via the main reception on every site. For students living in the Hall of Residence our Night Wardens and Weekend Warden are all trained in first aid.

Students living in the Hall of Residence will be registered with a local GP practice when they arrive at the college. Appointments to see the GP or nurse can be made by contacting the International Office or by telephoning the surgery directly. Boston College will keep records of appointments made on behalf of students living in the Hall of Residence.

In the event of an emergency, any member of staff can call the emergency services. If a student from the Hall of Residence who is under the age of 18 years needs to go to the Accident and Emergency Department at hospital, consideration will be given to who should accompany them. Each situation will be considered individually and the most appropriate person will accompany them.

Outside of normal GP surgery hours, medical advice can be obtained by telephoning 111 for non-emergency situations.

## **DENTIST/OPTICIANS**

Most students living in the Hall of Residence will have routine dental/optician appointments during their visits home. However, in the event of an emergency, staff in the International Office will help the student to access the appointments they need.

## **MEDICAL ABSENCE FROM CLASS**

Students living in the Hall of Residence who are unwell must let the International Office know. Staff from the International Office will notify tutors and/or teaching staff that the student will be absent. Any absences will be recorded and monitored with appropriate follow up action taken and recorded. This is likely to include follow up emails, text messages or visits depending on the nature of the illness. If necessary additional medical support will be arranged including doctors' appointments or transport to hospital if required.

Students living in the Hall of Residence who are ill will be advised to stay in their room and/or bed as appropriate.

## **QUARANTINE**

Most illnesses are minor, and students recover quickly. In the event of an outbreak of a more serious contagious illness, the College will follow appropriate medical advice which may include the provision of a quarantine area for students affected. The quarantine area, such as an empty flat in the Hall of Residence will be established following consultation with the International Office Manager and the Safeguarding Lead.

## **COMPETENCY IN MAKING DECISIONS RELATING TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Boston College recognises that there may be certain situations where students under the age of 18 years might need or request medical treatment or intervention without seeking their parent's approval. The College will treat all such situations individually and with sensitivity, seeking to establish whether the student has the competency to understand the implications of the treatment or intervention. Students in this situation will be supported and counselled by the International Office Manager and the Safeguarding Lead.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Boston College recognises that students living in its residential accommodation or in a Homestay setting may suffer from mental health conditions that would fall within the definition of a disability under the law, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010. It also recognises that living independently from their family unit and support networks can cause additional risks for some students.

The College is committed to providing a supportive learning and residential environment. Full details of the support available for students and residents is detailed in the International Student handbook. However, there are limits to the extent of the support that can be provided. The College will signpost students to the most appropriate professional support.

### **FIRST AID**

During the normal College day, a team of staff trained to deliver first aid operate within the College. All staff at the College are aware of the process for accessing first aid support.

Outside of the normal College day first aid support is available for residents in the Hall of Residence from our Night Wardens and Weekend Warden who are fully trained to deal with first aid emergencies.

**Equality Impact Assessment**

**1. What is the name of the policy?**

Learner Related: Students in Residential Accommodation with Medical Needs including Managing Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicines

**2. What is the aim of the policy?**

To provide guidance on students in residential accommodation with medical needs

**3. Who does the policy impact on? (Staff, learners, partners etc.)**

Staff, learners, parents, internal and external partners

**4. Who implements the policy?**

Business Development Directorate, International team

**5. What information is currently available on the impact of this policy?**

(This could include data that is routinely collected for this policy and/or minutes from management or team meetings. It could also include conversations with students and/or staff who have used this policy in their day to day role).

Feedback from staff, students, parents and agents

**6. Do you need more information before you can make an assessment about this policy?**

(If yes, please put down what information you need and identify in the action plan, how you intend to collect it)

No

**7. Do you have any examples that show this policy is having a positive impact on any of the equality characteristics shown in Table.1?**

All students living in residential accommodation who have any identified medical need are supported to ensure that their lives are not adversely affected by their needs. Students are able to access the support they need, attend their classes regularly and access leisure activities.

8. Are there any concerns that this policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality characteristics shown in Table.1?

Table. 1

Category	No	Yes	Please supply any additional comments
Race	x		
Disability	x		
Gender	x		
Gender re-assignment	x		
Age	x		
Sexual orientation	x		
Religion/belief	x		
Pregnancy/maternity	x		
Marriage/Civil Partnership	x		
Socio-economic	x		
Rurality	x		

Actions are to be taken as a result of the Equality Impact Assessment			
Action Required <i>(clearly state where within existing management structures these actions will be performance monitored)</i>	Person responsible	Comp date	Review details - impact and outcome
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Position: Director of Business Development- Sue Hill</b>	<b>Date: January 2019</b>	