PATTERSON RIVER
SECONDARY COLLEGE

HEALTH CARE NEEDS POLICY 2026-2030

PERSISTENCE · EXCELLENCE · COMMUNITY · RESPECT

PURPOSE

To ensure that Patterson River Secondary College provides appropriate support to students with health care needs.

OBJECTIVE

To explain to Patterson River Secondary College parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students with health care needs at school.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students who have been diagnosed with a health care need that may require support, monitoring or medication at school.

POLICY

This policy should be read with Patterson River Secondary College's*, Administration of Medication, Anaphylaxis, First Aid* and *Asthma* policies.

A Student Health Support Plan must be completed for each student with an identified health care need who:

- needs medical or health-related support at school
- has a health care need or condition that may impact the student at school
- has a health care need or condition that may impact their engagement and participation in education.

A Student Health Support Plan is not required for a student:

- who has a diagnosed health condition but who does not need any medical or health-related supports or adjustments at school
- with anaphylaxis or an allergy – refer to Anaphylaxis and Allergies about the requirements for those conditions
- with well-controlled asthma that does not need any individualised supervision or care as per their provided Asthma Action Plan – refer to Asthma
- with an Epilepsy Management Plan and Epilepsy Medication Management Plan – refer to Epilepsy and Seizures.

Student health support planning

In order to provide appropriate support to students at Patterson River Secondary College who may need medical or health-related support at school, a Student Health Support Plan will be prepared by Lisa Cavey, Assistant Principal or Anastasia Castle, First Aid Officer with support from the relevant Year Level Manager in consultation with the student, their parents, carers and treating health team.

Student Health Support plans help our school to assist students with:

- routine health care support needs, such as supervision or provision of medication
- personal care support needs, such as assistance with personal hygiene, continence care, eating and drinking, transfers and positioning, and use of health-related equipment
- emergency care needs, such as predictable emergency first aid associated with asthma, seizure or diabetes management.

Students with complex medical care needs, for example, tracheostomy care or tube feeding, must have a Student Health Support Plan which provides for appropriate staff to undertake specific training to meet the student's particular needs.

At enrolment or when a health care need is identified, parents/carers are responsible for providing accurate information about the student's condition or health care needs, ideally documented by the student's treating medical/health care practitioner on a Medical Advice Form (or relevant equivalent).

Patterson River Secondary College may invite parents and carers to attend a Student Support Group meeting to discuss the contents of a student's Health Support Plan and assistance that the student may need at school or during school activities.

Where necessary, Patterson River Secondary College may also request consent from parents and carers to consult with a student's treating health team, to assist in preparing the plan and ensure that appropriate staff understand the student's needs. Consultation with the student's treating health team will not occur without parent/carer consent unless required or authorised by law.

Student Health Support Plans will be reviewed:

- when updated information is received from the student's medical or health practitioner
- if there is a change in needs or level of support, including where a student is learning to independently manage their condition
- when the school, student or parents and carers have concerns with the support being provided to the student, or
- at least on an annual basis.

Management of confidential medical information

Confidential medical information provided to Patterson River Secondary College to support a student is:

- recorded on the student's file
- shared with all relevant staff so that they are able to properly support students diagnosed with medical conditions and respond appropriately if necessary.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- The department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
  - Health Care Needs
  - Epilepsy and Seizures
  - Health Support Planning Forms
  - Complex Medical Care Supports
  - Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes
  - Privacy and Information Sharing

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	October 2030

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