



## Consortium of Local Medical Committees

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Chief Executive & Secretary: Peter Higgins

05/11/2018

Dear Head Teacher,

### RE: Over the Counter (OTC) Medicines for Children

It has come to our attention that some Nurseries and Primary Schools are asking for a prescription from the GP to prescribe OTC medication as they will not administer medication unless prescribed. As the representative body for all GPs in Lancashire and Cumbria we would like to highlight that GPs are unable to carry out this request.

GPs would not normally prescribe simple OTC medications for any patient, including children. Therefore a doctor's prescription should not be required before administering such medicines to a child.

MHRA licenses all medicines and classifies them as OTC when it considers it safe and appropriate that they may be used without a prescription. Thus it is appropriate for OTC medicines to be given by parents when they consider it necessary. This may be in a home or school environment.

In light of this the LMC considers it a misuse of GP time to provide an appointment for a child with the sole purpose of acquiring a prescription for an OTC medicine to satisfy the ruling of a school. It is also a waste of NHS funding to process an unnecessary prescription.

The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage identifies current national standards whereby non-prescription medication can be administered if the parent has given prior written consent for the administration of any medication.

We hope this clarifies the situation with regard to the unnecessary request for a doctor's prescription for OTC (i.e. non-prescription) medicines.

Yours sincerely

Peter Higgins

Chief Executive

Paul Turner

Head of Schools, Safeguarding and Inclusion

Blackpool Council