

# **Columbia Prep**

## **Medication Administration Policy**

(please keep for future reference)

### **Prescription Medications**

Prescription medications that must be given during the school day require:

- 1) the original prescription bottle, with the student's name, medication name, dosage, date and physician's name.
- 2) A signed, dated note from a parent requesting administration of the drug and indicating for how long the drug is to be given

If you would like to stock emergency medication specifically for your child in the nurse's office such as an Epi-pen, inhaler, glucagon or insulin please bring it in with a note from your child's physician outlining conditions for administration.

### **Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medications**

OTC Medications stocked by the nurse are: Advil, Aleve, Tums/Maalox, Benedryl, Chlor-trimeton, Midol, Pepto-Bismol, Robitussin (guaifenesin), Sudafed, Tylenol and Visine. Only those approved by the parent/guardian and the doctor on our health form can be administered during the school day.

Students may not bring OTC medications to school from home. Many teenagers believe that because these drugs are sold without prescription, they are harmless. On the contrary, taking OTC medications may carry substantial risks. Students may not be aware, for example, that acetaminophen (Tylenol) is present in many cough and/or cold preparations and that overdosing on acetaminophen can result in liver damage. They are often unaware that teens should not take products containing salicylates (aspirin), like pepto-bismol if they are experiencing flu-like or other viral symptoms. For these reasons and also because some OTC drugs (like cough and cold medicines) have the potential to be taken recreationally or, like Sudafed can be used in the production of more dangerous recreational drugs, OTC meds at school must always be dispensed by the nurse.

If for some reason, a student must take an OTC med (other than those approved by an MD on the yearly health form) during school hours, the same procedure as for prescription drugs apply. In place of a prescription bottle, I will need a doctor's note stating drug, dosage and frequency accompanying the medication or faxed to me at 212 961-3120.