

Health History Forms

Gathering health history information is an important responsibility of your health care staff. Information about allergies, prior injuries, or illnesses can help staff treat a child's current conditions. Many health forms ask for parental permission to administer various over-the-counter medications. If a parent says no, it's a good idea to find out why, particularly if your medical protocols suggest the use of common OTC medications.

In an emergency situation, such as the treatment of anaphylaxis, your facility's medical protocols may call for the use of Benadryl. Benadryl usually contains a red dye that some youth could be allergic to, but there are clear forms of Benadryl available. The parent may have refused Benadryl not because of the medication but because of the dye. There may also be an alternative antihistamine that health care staff can use in an emergency situation if they understand the underlying reason the parent refused the use of Benadryl. Take the time to make sure your facility's medical protocols match up with parent directives, particularly for emergency situations.