Medical Plans of Care in a School Setting  
Fact Sheet

Guiding Principles:  
To maximize school attendance and performance  
To provide and promote health management including self direction when appropriate  
To ensure that the student is able to maximize the learning opportunities by achieving an optimal level of functioning.

Emergency Care Plan (ECP)  
- Required by professional standards of practice (ANA, NASN)  
- “Written school nursing management plan to direct actions that should be taken when a student displays signs and symptoms suggestive of a life threatening or seriously harmful health situation.” (Schwab, 2001)  
- Can be part of IHP, IEP with medical component or 504 Plan.  
- Initiated by Certified School Nurse  
- Does not require parental involvement

Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP)  
- Required by professional standards of practice (ANA, NASN), using nursing process (assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation)  
- “Plan of action to be used by the school nurse and other members of the school team, as appropriate, to meet the actual and potential health care needs of a student during the school day. The plan…includes written directions for managing student health needs and adaptations for enhancing the student’s independent functioning.” (Schwab, 2001)  
- Initiated by Certified School Nurse  
- Does not require parental involvement  
- Recommend use of standardized language  
  - North American Nursing diagnosis Association (NANDA)  
  - Nursing Interventions Classification (NIC)  
  - Nursing Outcomes Classification (NOC)

Prioritizing Students:  
- Students who have health needs that are addressed as part of an IEP or 504  
- Students who are medically fragile with multiple health needs  
- Students who have health needs that are addressed on a daily basis  
- Students who require extended nursing care or multiple contacts with the nurse during the school day  
- Students who need emergency plans for potential life threatening, e.g. peanut allergy
Individualized Education Plan (IEP) with a medical component

- Required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and 22 PA Code, Chapter 14, Special Education Services and Programs
- “Written plan, developed by the IEP team, specifying services for a student (aged 3 – 21 years) in need of special education for a school year or less, as specified in IDEA and state law.” (Schwab, 2001)
- IDEA- “Federal legislation that provides access to school and a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment for children with disabling conditions that interfere with learning.” (Schwab, 2001)
- Usually initiated by teacher or administrator
- Requires parental involvement as part of IEP team

504 Accommodation Plan

- Required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and 22 PA Code, Chapter 15, Protected Handicapped Students
- Section 504- “The civil rights provision of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that bans discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and services receiving federal financial assistance.” (Schwab, 2001)
- School must provide aides, services or accommodations needed for the student to have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from school programs. (Selekman, 2006)
- Usually initiated by teacher or administrator
- Requires parental involvement

Division of School Health
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