

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

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