

Issues Related to Students with Special Health Care Needs in the School

Students with complex medical conditions and nursing/health care needs are currently seen in increasing numbers in schools. As a result, schools are providing a variety of health and nursing services to these students. Both federal and state legislation is in place to guide health care professionals in the schools.

Points to Remember:

- **Every student who has a special health care need requiring nursing care, intervention or supervision should have a Health Care Plan* written by a health care professional.**
- **In addition to a Health Care Plan, documentation should be kept on Emergency Information (emergency, EMT and ambulance numbers, hospital preference, primary physician), and an Emergency Plan and Physician's Orders for Health Care Procedures should be readily available.**
- **School personnel who are responsible for the education and care of students with special health care needs should receive training from persons who are certified or licensed to perform the procedures being taught.**
- **Health care procedures should be performed by qualified personnel who have had child specific training in the procedure.**
- **Documentation of training and on-going supervision should be provided by a health care professional**
- **A daily log which documents the procedure, date, time and observations should be completed after each procedure.**

As paraphrased from the Nurse Practice Act, Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 44.11 (4) definition: The performance of nursing acts may be delegated to licensed practical nurses and/or less skilled assistants. Only a licensed registered nurse can delegate nursing procedures.

* State and federal statutes provide specific protections to students and parents regarding the maintenance and sharing of confidential student information. In general, records relating to the health of a child that contain such information as diagnoses, opinions, and judgments made by a health care provider are considered "patient health care records." The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recommends patient health care records be maintained separately from other pupil records, because the requirements relating to access to and disclosure of information from patient health care records are more restrictive than the requirements for other pupil records.

If you need additional information related to student records and confidentiality, a publication entitled "Student Records and Confidentiality" is available electronically at: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsea/sspw/pdf/srconfid03.pdf>.