

**Regulation**

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SCHOOL NURSING PLAN

The certified school nurse at Frenchtown Elementary School has a multitude of roles within the scope of his/her professional practice. In an ongoing effort to ensure children remain healthy and ready to learn, the school nurse takes on roles of nursing care provider, investigator, communicator, counselor, child advocate, community liaison, recorder and manager.

Nursing Care Provider

Within the role of nursing care provider, the school nurse uses the nursing process, which includes assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating the nursing care in an ongoing manner. The development of individualized health care plans (IHP's) and emergency care plans (ECP's) are carried out by the school nurse for each student with acute or chronic health concerns.

The school nurse performs daily assessments and treats students and staff; on both an emergency and non-emergency basis. The school nurse maintains basic life support certification.

Frenchtown Elementary School is a single school district with one nurse assigned to the school. For additional support in emergencies, staff members are trained in cardiac pulmonary resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator. The school nurse is responsible for the training of teachers in epinephrine administration. Athletic coaches attend first aid training. And when required, the local first aid squad/paramedics are utilized.

In the event of the certified school nurse's absence, a substitute school nurse employed by the district is obtained to cover the building.

Investigator

As an investigator, the school nurse seeks information regarding health histories, health practices, environmental concerns, safety issues, communicable disease patterns and current health information relevant to the practice of school nursing. Consultations with parents and guardians, physicians, specialists, health agencies, classroom teachers, custodial staff and maintenance staff are sought in order to gather information.

Communicator

As a communicator the school nurse uses varied approaches to share important information with students, parents, staff members, physicians, health care agencies, administration and government entities. Telephone conferences, personal letters, flyers, bulletin board postings, email communications, personal conferences, departmental meetings, Pupil Assistance Committee meetings and Child Study Team meetings represent some of the methods and forums in which health information is communicated.

Counselor

The school nurse serves in the role of counselor to students, parents and staff alike regarding health issues and personal concerns. Referrals are made to the school psychologist, student assistance counselor, private physicians or community health resources as needed.

Educator

SCHOOL NURSING PLAN (regulation continued)

The role of educator is a vital role for the certified school nurse. Informal teaching takes place continuously on a one-to-one basis during delivery of nursing care to both staff and students. Staff education on pertinent health topics (asthma, allergies, PEOSHA, child abuse, seizure disorders, etc...) is provided through written materials at staff meetings or in small groups as needed. Parent education is provided through written materials, discussions, and individual meetings.

Child Advocate

As a child advocate the school nurse works closely with staff and families to facilitate that health needs and accommodations are identified and met. Advocacy can extend beyond these arenas to include referrals for health services, counseling, community programs, camps and Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

Communication Liaison

In the role of community liaison the school nurse works with local groups and organizations to bring special programs into the school.

Recorder

A time-consuming role for the school nurse is the role of recorder. A legal record must be maintained for each student, and documentation for each incident of nursing care is required. Each entry must include the date, time, major complaint, nursing assessment, plan of care, implementation and evaluation. Written communication from parents or health care providers must also be incorporated into the student records. Data must also be collected and recorded for state agencies related to immunizations, tuberculosis testing, medical waste management and employee injuries.

Manager

With the variety of roles the school nurse takes on, and the variety of needs that must be balanced at any given point in time, the school nurse takes on the overarching role of manager. In the school setting, it is essential to aggressively manage any health problem that is likely to compromise learning. For this reason, school health care providers must prioritize concerns and assign health services staff in a way that achieves this goal.

The assignment of a certified school nurse at Frenchtown Elementary School must not be solely based on student population. Consideration must also be given for the special education population and the severity of health concerns present within the building. Severity coding can be broken down into four levels: Nursing Dependent, Medically Fragile, Medically Complex, and Health Concerns.

Level I: Nursing Dependent

Nursing dependent students require 24 hours/day, frequently one-to-one, skilled nursing care for survival. Many are dependent on technological devices for breathing, such as a student on a ventilator, and/or require continuous nursing assessment and intervention. Without the use of the correct medical technology and nursing care, the student will experience irreversible damage or death.

Level II: Medically Fragile

Students with complicated health care needs in this category face each day with the possibility of a life-threatening emergency requiring the skill and judgment of a professional nurse. Examples may include, but are not limited to: severe seizure disorder requiring medication, severe asthma, sterile procedures, tracheostomy care with suctioning, unstable or newly diagnosed diabetic with unscheduled blood sugar monitoring and insulin injections, diabetics with insulin pumps requiring monitoring and asthmatics requiring nebulizer treatments.

SCHOOL NURSING PLAN (regulation continued)Level III: Medically Complex

Students with medically complex concerns require daily treatments or close monitoring by a professional nurse. They may have unstable physical and/or social-emotional conditions and the potential for a life-threatening event may exist. Examples include, but are not limited to: ADHD and on medication, anaphylactic event, cancer, immune disorders, moderate to severe asthma (inhaler, peak flow meter), preteen or teenage pregnancy, carefully timed medications, medications with major side effects, unstable metabolic conditions, continuous or intermittent oxygen and complex mental or emotional disorders.

Level IV: Health Concerns

In the category of health concerns, the student's physical and/or social-emotional condition is currently uncomplicated and predictable. Occasionally, the student requires monitoring, varying from biweekly to annually. Examples include, but are not limited to: dental disease, headaches, migraines, sensory impairments, diabetes self-managed by the student, dietary restrictions, eating disorders, and orthopedic conditions requiring accommodations.

In preparing the nursing services plan each year, it is critical to review not only population size, but also the severity of health concerns and associated time requirements. The attached summary of data supports the need for a full time certified school nurse at Frenchtown Elementary School to ensure safe practice.

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