

School Nursing and Health Services

Bette Carr, RN, MSN, NCSN
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw_schlnurse

608-266-8857

Definition of a School Nurse

- A School Nurse must have a RN license and at least an Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) (115.001(11))
- If hired after December 9, 2011, the 2-yr or 3-yr RN must also complete a course in Public & Community Health Nursing approved by DPI
- A School Nurse does NOT have to have a DPI School Nurse certification #75

District's Health-Related Mandates

- Emergency Nursing Services
- Bloodborne Pathogens Training
- Medication Administration
- Identification of Children with Disabilities
- Providing Health-Related Services for Students with Health Care Needs
- Special Education Services

District's Health-Related Mandates

- Emergency Nursing Services:
 - [PI 8.01\(2\)\(g\)](#) Standard G
 - A plan for emergency nursing services during the school day and at all school sponsored programs developed with input from a School Nurse
 - Policy/protocol for injuries, illnesses, meds
 - A district must have arrangements with a Medical Advisor

District's Health-Related Mandates

- **Bloodborne Pathogens** [OSHA Reg. 29, CFR 1910.1030\(g\)\(2\)\(ii\)](#)
 - Districts must have a plan in place to identify those staff members who are at risk
- **Medication Administration** [Wis. stat. sec. 118.29](#)
 - Administrator authorizes staff members for medication administration
 - Training, competency, and skill check off by School Nurse for certain med routes
 - Monitoring by School Nurse

IDEA and Special Education Services

- A School Nurse should be involved in evaluations of students with health care concerns to make sure that their needs are met
- IEP services
 - **School Health Services**
 - Performed by the RN or others
 - **Nursing Services**
 - Only an RN can provide the service

School Nurse's Role

- Participate on the Pupil Services Team
- Contribute to Section 504 Plans and IEP Teams
- Develop health-related policy and protocol
- Provide classroom instruction on preventive health measures—germs, lice, attending school, keeping bodies healthy and safe
- Elevate school climate—safety and wellness activities for staff and students

School Nurse's Role

- Provide guidance on health issues in the school setting—immunizations, attendance, medications, environmental health, AODA issues, staff health
- Make home visits to check up on students
- Consult with health care providers to keep students in school
- Consult with mental health care providers to improve medication efficacy

School Nurses Must Have:

- A job description that specifically states what their job is going to be.
 - District expectations
 - Define role
 - It should state whether you are expecting the nurse to delegate or not (if you are wanting to bill MA)
 - It should show that you value the nurse's knowledge by giving them challenges

MA Billing

- MA billing, under the Department of Health's School Based Services, pointedly states that in order to bill for health related services, the RN must do the task themselves or must delegate the nursing task to the other staff members. (SBS handbook, DHS)

Delegation

- Delegation involves multiple steps, one of which is having sufficient time to train, supervise and monitor
- There are certain things that a nurse may decide not to delegate in certain situations
- There are certain things that a nurse may NOT delegate ever--assessment
- It is the nurse who makes the final delegation decisions; no one else

Providing a School Nurse

- **District-hired School Nurse**
 - Salary, fringes, control of goals
 - Helps to decide priorities in district
 - Must have sufficient hours to provide services
- **Contracted Services**
 - Public Health, Hospital, Clinic, CESA
 - Normally contracted for a certain number of hours and tasks, usually “consultation” only
 - Doesn’t eliminate risk to district

Student Information Data

- Number of students with chronic health conditions is increasing
- Number of medically fragile students is increasing
- New medication usage in schools is demanding more and more of the school nurse's time
- Visits to the school nurse are increasing because that is the only health care some children are receiving

District's Decision

- **Student population and needs**
- **Strategic plan for the district**
- **Funding**
- **Creative funding**
- **Goals for students and staff**

DPI SCHOOL NURSING RESOURCES

Educational Workshops

DPI School Nurse Webpage

http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sspw_schnurse

Many Webcast Trainings

Many Q & A Booklets

CESA Visits

Consultative Services

References:

- Wisconsin State Statutes
- DPI Medication Q & A
- DPI Nurse Practice Act & Delegation Q & A