

HEALTH INFORMATION FOR EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

There are several important health issues that need to be addressed as part of a child's entry into or regular review of services in an educational program. These issues are summarized below. First complete the Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) for EI/ECSE with parents by interview and then review the checklist. The HSQ provides much of the information necessary to answer the questions listed below. If the child has frequently missed school due to illness, check school attendance records as needed and clarify the reasons for the absences.

Please \checkmark if yes and provide specific information for each yes answer.

- Does the child need to take medications at school? _____
- Does the child require a special diet or feeding program at school, e.g. suctioning, clean intermittent catheterization? _____
- Does the child need other special procedures/treatment at school? _____
- Does the child need adjustment in the classroom schedule or environment (e.g. a child who is easily fatigued or a child with peanut or latex allergy). _____
- Are there major safety considerations (e.g., safety of feeding a child with chronic lung disease on supplemental oxygen)? _____
- Do staff need to develop an individual health care plan (IHCP) and emergency management plan for this child for school and school-related activities?

In general, children who require medications, special procedures, adjustment in the school schedule/ environment or special safety precautions will need an emergency management plan. Other children who require direct nursing services for any reason or who fit the definition of "medically fragile" also will require an IHCP and emergency management plan.

- Do educational staff need more information on the diagnosis, a specific treatment or side-effects of treatment? _____
- Do educational staff need to monitor a specific health concern, e.g., seizure frequency? _____
- Does the child need referral to health services? In general, consider referral to a health professional if:
 - * Child does not have a primary care MD
 - * Family has ongoing concerns about the child's health
 - * The cause (etiology) of the child's developmental disability and related problems is not known
 - * There has been a recent increase in symptoms or failure to make expected progress
 - * The child has frequently missed school due to illness
 - * The child needs formal hearing or vision testing

HEALTH INFORMATION FOR EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS (Continued)

Next mail the Health Information Questionnaire (HIQ) to the child's primary health care provider for completion. The physician will provide information that is complimentary and confirmatory to that provided by the parents. Some of this information may be essential to help plan for educational services. If the child does not have a primary care physician ask the parent(s) if they would like assistance in identifying a primary care physician (PCP) for their child. If the family would like assistance, provide the information to the school nurse or other appropriate staff person. (R. Nickel, 1998)

Resource: *Children and Youth Assisted by Medical Technology in Educational Settings*, 2nd Edition, S Porter, M Haynie, T Bierle, TH Caldwell, and J Palfrey (Eds.), Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1997. This is an excellent comprehensive review that presents a wealth of practical information as well as useful forms and checklists, including examples of Individual Health Care Plans and Emergency management plans.