



NASN Position Statement: Individualized Healthcare Plans: The Role of the School Nurse

SUPPLEMENTED WITH WASHINGTON STATE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Summary of the National Association of School Nurses Individualized Healthcare Plans: The Role of the School Nurse Position Statement

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) first adopted the position statement for Individualized Healthcare Plans in June 1998. The most recent revision is dated January 2015. This is the second position statement for Individualized Healthcare Plans by the School Nurse Organization of Washington (SNOW). The previous position statement was adopted February 2001.

It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) that the registered professional school nurse (hereinafter referred to as school nurse), in collaboration with the student, family and healthcare providers, shall meet nursing regulatory requirements and professional standards by developing an Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) for students whose healthcare needs affect or have the potential to affect safe and optimal school attendance and academic performance. Because health conditions can be complex and unfamiliar to school staff and the student's requirement for nursing care can be frequent and sometimes emergent, accurate and adequate documentation of chronic medical conditions and individual needs is critical (Lyon, 2012). Development of IHPs is a nursing responsibility, based on standards of care regulated by state nurse practice acts and cannot be delegated to unlicensed individuals (National Council of State Boards of Nursing [NCSBN], 2005). It is the responsibility of the school nurse to implement and evaluate the IHP at least yearly and as changes in health status occur to determine the need for revision and evidence of desired student outcomes (NASN 2016).

The full NASN IHP/EHP Position Statement can be found by following this link:

[http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFull View/tabid/462/ArticleId/32/Individualized-Healthcare-Plans-The-Role-of-the-School-NurseRevised-January-2015](http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFullView/tabid/462/ArticleId/32/Individualized-Healthcare-Plans-The-Role-of-the-School-NurseRevised-January-2015)

Supplementary Information Specific to Washington State

Washington State has law (RCW 28A.210.320, WAC 392-380-005–080) that specifically require identifying and planning for students with potentially life threatening conditions be done prior to

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students arriving at school. This work requires that districts have systems in place that allow for identification at the point of enrollment so that school nurses can be alerted to the student's needs. When a student has a potentially life threatening health concern, the Individual Health Plan (IHP) must also contain an Emergency Health Plan (ECP). Health conditions that require ECPs include, but are not limited to Type 1 Diabetes, Life Threatening Allergies, and Seizure Disorders.

SUMMARY

Based on state law and the nursing process, school nurses are responsible for writing and carrying out Individualized Health Care Plans (IHP) and Emergency Care Plans (ECP). Using the nursing process, the school nurse must first assess the student's needs (collaborating with the student and family), plan the care, implement the care plan with staff who interact with the student in the school setting, evaluate the care over time and make adjustments as needed. This process should take place at least annually, but also at any time the student's condition may change. The IHP and ECP should be written in order to promote safety and academic progress. As with all health related information, IHP's and ECP's should be kept confidential and shared only with those with a need to know.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES

National Association of School Nurses (2016). Individualized Healthcare Plans: The Role of the School Nurse.

<http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFullView/tabid/462/ArticleId/32/Individualized-Healthcare-Plans-The-Role-of-theSchool-Nurse-Revised-January-2015>

RCW 28A.210.320, WAC 392-380-005–080

<http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices/pubdocs/SHB2834-ESSB6641/B061-02.pdf>.

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