

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL CARE NEEDS AND/OR TECHNOLOGY DEPENDENT CHILDREN

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL CARE NEEDS The

registered nurse practicing as a school nurse:

1. 1. Determines the level of personnel needed to care for the child in the school setting, in consultation with the child's primary physician, parents, the child, the nurse coordinating the child's home care, when applicable, and a designated school representative;

The nurse bases decisions about the level of personnel needed to provide nursing care in the school on; a) a) the stability of the child's medical condition; b) b) the complexity and acuteness of the observations and judgments the care giver must make during the school day; c) c) the nature, frequency and complexity of prescribed treatments the child requires; d) d) the number, types, routes of administration and potential for adverse reactions of medications the child receives in school; e) e) the need to assess the child for PRN medications and treatments; f) f) the child's ability to communicate his needs to the caregiver; g) g) the knowledge base and proficiency of psychomotor skill required of the direct care provider; and h) h) the level of preparation and experience of the direct caregiver.

2. 2. Develops a nursing care plan for every child with an identified health care needed;

3. 3. Includes provisions in the nursing care plan to ensure that provisions are made for the continuation of safe care during transportation to and from school;

4. 4. Integrates the nursing care plan with the IEP, when one exists; and

5. 5. Determines what nursing tasks may be delegated, to whom, and under what conditions, based on the following:

a) a) the child's health status, including the stability and chronicity of health problems'

b) b) the nature and complexity of tasks to be performed; and

c) c) the extent of supervision the nurse is required to provide to ensure the tasks are safely carried out.

The registered nurse ensures the there are written guidelines or protocols addressing possible medical emergencies the child may experience in he school setting. Guidelines should include:

- 1 1. the definition of a medical emergency for this child;
- 2 2. individuals to be notified when an emergency occurs
- 3 3. identification of the person who will initiate and direct the action to be taken;
- 4 4. specific action to be taken in this emergency;
- 5 5. transport specifications (internal and external), who will provide it, and to where;
- and
- 6 6. the format for documentation of actions taken in a medical emergency.

TECHNOLOGY DEPENDENT CHILDREN

The registered nurse practicing as a school nurse is the coordinator/facilitator of nursing care in the school, and may not necessarily be the direct care provider, for children who are technology-dependent.

In coordinating for facilitating care, the registered nurse:

- 1 1. evaluates the admission of a specific child to a specific school;
- 2 2. ensures placement of the child in a safe, accessible classroom within the school;
- 3 3. assesses the school and community environment and necessary resources to ensure a safe educational setting; and

ensures that school personnel have the health care information necessary to create an environment in the classroom, which is conducive to learning.

Nancy Dube, School Nurse Consultant
Department of Education
624-6688, Nancy.Dube@Maine.Gov