

School Nurses

Health Professionals in the Public School Setting

General School Nurse Data

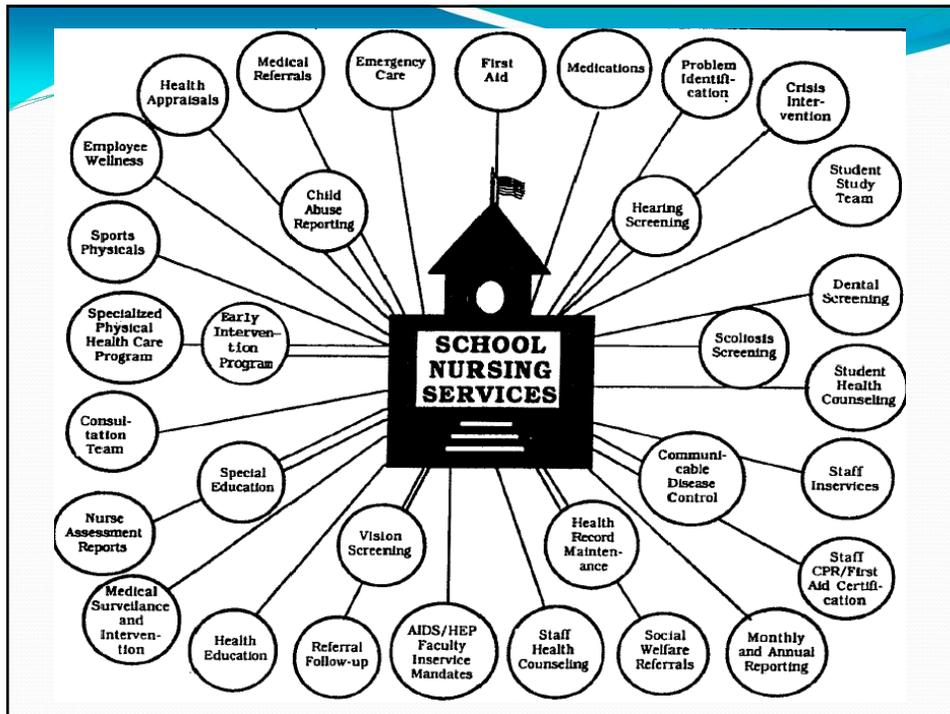
- School nurses have served in Utah Districts since 1904
- Currently 1 school nurse to 5200 students
- Available in all school districts except Tintic and Duchesne



Recommended Ratios

NASN and Healthy People 2010 recommended a needs-based formula approach for determining full-time school nurse-to-students ratio. For example:

- 1:750 WELL students
- 1:225 in the student populations that may require daily professional school nursing services or interventions such as Special Ed inclusions
- 1:125 in student populations with complex healthy care needs
- 1:1 may be necessary for individual students with multiple disabilities



School Nurses and Special Education

(In other words, when might your school nurse be helpful?)

- 13 Categories of eligibility under the IDEA
 - Autism
 - Deafblindness
 - Developmental Delay
 - Emotional Disturbance
 - Hearing Impairment/Deafness
 - Intellectual Disability
 - Multiple Disabilities

School Nurses and Special Education

(In other words, when might your school nurse be helpful?)

- 13 Categories of eligibility under the IDEA (continued)
 - Orthopedic Impairment
 - Other Health Impairment
 - Specific Learning Disabilities
 - Speech/Language Impairment
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Visual Impairment (including blindness)

Medical and developmental history required.

- Autism
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury

- How can your nurse help???

IEP Team Members



- Nurses need to be included on the IEP team when a child has a health condition that requires an Individualized Health Care Plan. The plan may or may not be part of the IEP.
- “Advances in health care and technology offer greater opportunities for children with special health care needs to attend school, bringing medically fragile students into the general school population.



- School nurses can use their expert assessment skills to appropriately delegate health-related tasks and meet the specific health care needs of students, increasing access to a free appropriate public education.” (Resha, 2010) (NASN Position Statement)
- For which IDEA classifications can the nurse lend expertise?
- Information obtained from parents or school personnel regarding health changes should be shared with the nurse and vice versa.

R156-31b Nurse Practice Act Rule

- 102 Definitions:
 - (21) Individualized Health Plan (IHP) means a plan for managing the health needs of a specific student, written and reviewed at least annually by a school nurse. The IHP is developed by a nurse working in a school setting in conjunction with the student and the student’s parent or guardian to guide school personnel in the care of a student with medical needs. The plan shall be based on the student’s practitioner’s orders for the administration of medication or treatments for the student, or the student’s DMMP.

504 Team Members

- When does a child need a 504 plan along with a Individualized Health Care Plan?
- The incidence of chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, severe allergies, and seizure disorders in school-age children is on the rise. A nurse can help determine when a 504 plan would be appropriate, along with a health care plan.



- Delegation is a valuable tool in meeting the health care needs of school children. Federal laws set requirements for the provision of health care to children in schools. Laws such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 ensure that children with special health care needs have the right to be educated with their peers in the least restrictive environment (Section 504 Rehabilitation Act, 1973) and to receive support and accommodations for conditions that adversely impact their capacity for learning. (Gelfman, 2001) (NASN Position Statement)

The School Nurse Role



- A Registered Nurse (RN) is the only person that can delegate health care procedures and medication administration.
- A Physician cannot delegate care in the school setting.
- Parents cannot delegate medical care.
- A Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) does not have the authority under her nursing license to delegate medical care. CNA's can not delegate in the schools.
- School District employees do not have a license to practice medicine, and therefore cannot delegate medical care.

- Delegation of procedures/medication in the school setting is a complex process.
- “The decision to delegate and the supervision of delegation of nursing tasks in the school setting rest solely with the registered nurse, who makes the determination to delegate based on nursing assessment and in compliance with applicable laws and guidance provided by professional nursing associations.” (NASN Position Statement)



The nurse who is delegating a nursing task shall:

- Verify and evaluate the orders;
- Perform a nursing assessment including:
 - Student care needs, complexity and frequency of the nursing care;
 - The delegatee's knowledge, skills, and abilities after training has been provided;
 - The nature of the task being delegated, potential for harm, irreversibility;
 - Availability and accessibility of resources; and
 - Availability of adequate supervision.

Delegation of Nursing Tasks R156-31b-701

- Why is delegation so concerning???
- (1) The nurse delegating task retains the accountability for the appropriate delegation of tasks and for the nursing care of the [patient]. The licensed nurse shall not delegate any task requiring the specialized knowledge, judgment and skill of a licensed nurse to an unlicensed assistive personnel.

The nurse who is delegating a nursing task shall: cont.

- Act within the area of the nurse's responsibility;
- Act within the nurse's knowledge, skills and abilities;
- Determine whether the task can be safely performed by a delegatee or whether it requires a licensed health care provider;
- Determine that the task being delegated is a task that a reasonable and prudent nurse would find to be within generally accepted nursing practice;

The nurse who is delegating a nursing task shall: cont.

- Determine that the task being delegated is an act consistent with the health and safety of the patient;
- Verify that the delegatee has the competence to perform the delegated task prior to performing it;
- Provide instruction and direction necessary to safely perform the specific task;

The nurse who is delegating a nursing task shall: cont.

- Provide ongoing supervision and evaluation of the delegatee performing the task;
- Explain the delegation to the delegatee and that the delegated task is limited to the identified student within the identified time frame;
- Instruct the delegatee how to intervene in any foreseeable risks that may be associated with the delegated task; and
- If the delegated task is to be performed more than once, establish a system for ongoing monitoring of the delegatee.

Nursing tasks to be delegated shall meet the following criteria:

- Be considered routine care for the student;
- Pose little potential hazard for the student;
- Be performed with a predictable outcome for the student;
- Be administered according to a previously developed plan of care; and
- Not inherently involve nursing judgment which cannot be separated from the procedure.

The Golden Rule of Delegation

- If the nurse, upon review of the student condition, complexity of the task, ability of the proposed delegatee and other criteria as deemed appropriate by the nurse, determines that the proposed delegatee cannot safely provide the requisite care, the nurse shall not delegate the task to such proposed delegatee.

Delegation of Nursing Tasks in a School Setting

- **R156-31b-701a. Delegation of Nursing Tasks in a School Setting.**
- In addition to the delegation rule found in Section R156-31b-701, the delegation of nursing tasks in a school setting is further defined, clarified, or established as follows:
 - (1) Any task being delegated by the school nurse shall be identified within a current IHP. The IHP is limited to a specific delegatee for a specific time frame. Any unlicensed person who administers medication to a student as a delegatee of a school nurse, must receive training from a school nurse at least annually.
 - (2) The action of a medication shall determine if the drug is appropriate to delegate the administration to an unlicensed person. Any medication with known, frequent side effects that can be life threatening shall not be delegated.
 - (3) Medications that require the student's vital signs or oxygen saturation to be monitored before, during or after administration of the drug shall not be administered by an unlicensed person.
 - (4) A nurse working in a school setting may not delegate the administration of the first dose of a new medication or a dosage change.
 - (5) A nurse may not delegate the administration of any medication which requires nursing assessment or judgment prior to or immediately after administration.
 - (6) The routine provision of scheduled or correction dosage of insulin and the administration of glucagon in an emergency situation, as prescribed by the practitioner's order or specified in the IHP:
 - (a) are not actions that require nursing assessment or judgment prior to administration; and
 - (b) may be delegated to a delegatee. Insulin and glucagon injections by the delegatee shall only occur when the delegatee has followed the guidelines of the IHP.

- “Delegation *may* occur when the registered nurse determines it is appropriate to provide necessary treatment, but such delegation *may not* be appropriate for all students or all school nursing practices. The legal parameters for nursing delegation are defined by State Nurse Practice Acts, State Board of Nursing guidelines, and Nursing Administrative Rules/Regulations (NCSBN, 2005). “ (NASN Position Statement)



Scenarios

- Diabetes
- Seizures
- Allergies
- Asthma
- Transportation
- Etc.