
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 15, 2003

TO: County Health Department Directors
School District Superintendents

FROM: John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
Secretary, Department of Health

Jim Horne
Commissioner, Department of Education

SUBJECT: Nursing Guidelines for the Delegation of Care
for Students with Diabetes in Florida Schools 2003

INFORMATION ONLY

We are pleased to provide the enclosed *Nursing Guidelines for the Delegation of Care for Students with Diabetes in Florida Schools 2003*. The guidelines, developed by the Florida Department of Health in cooperation with the Department of Education, local school health providers and community stakeholders, are in response to the growing numbers of children with diabetes in the schools and numerous requests from parents, school staff, and administrators. The guidelines will assist school districts in assuring that provisions of the *Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, and the requirements under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* are met.

Diabetes is the second most common chronic disease affecting school-aged children. There are more than 3000 students with diabetes in Florida schools. To ensure that children with diabetes are not denied access to school programs because of their disease, paraprofessionals and other non-medical school staff must assist with the care of these students; however, care must be taken to assure that these staff members are adequately prepared to provide these services safely. These guidelines provide objective criteria for the school nurse to train and delegate to paraprofessionals the care for students with diabetes. The guidelines also provide the nurse directions in developing the Individualized Health Care Plan with input from students, parents, school staff, and healthcare providers.

The Department of Health will be working with other programs and community partners to make training available for nurses who will be educating paraprofessionals. As these efforts are finalized, information will be shared by e-mail, and posted on the Department of Health intranet and Internet sites, and on the Department of Education website. Recommendations for staff education are included in the guidelines and may be adapted for the local level.

County Health Department Directors
School District Superintendents
Page Two
July 15, 2003

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the Department of Health, School Health Program at (850) 245-4445, or the Department of Education Student Services Office at (850) 922-3727.

JOA/sb

Enclosure

cc: County Health Department Nursing Directors
Department of Education School Nurse Consultant
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Annette Phelps, Department of Health