

School Nurses and Plans

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Plans that are used by school nurses

- Individualized (or Individual) Health (or Healthcare) Plan (IHP)
- Emergency Care Plan (ECP)
- 504 Plan
- IEP Plan
- Asthma Action Plan (AAP)

What is an IHP?

- It is a document that:
 - Is developed in response to the healthcare needs of a student that affect or have the potential to affect safe & optimal school attendance and academic performance (NASN 2013)
 - Utilizes the nursing process
 - Includes student goals and expected outcomes to promote health, prevent disease or injury, & enhance academic achievement

“IHPs are the raw data
for our evidence base.
They are the voice of
school nursing”

(Kathy Karsting, 2012: NASN School Nurse)



Why are IHP's Important?

- Offers quality assurance documentation
- Serves as source or foundation of health information needed to develop other school plans
- Enables essential, coordinated care and evaluation
- Promotes communication
- Provides quantifiable data about the outcomes that school nurses contribute to student success.
- Documents evidence of our practice in accordance with professional standards



Who Needs an IHP?

- Students whose health care needs affect or have the potential to affect safe & optimal school attendance & academic performance (NASN, 2013)
- Students with whom the nurse has multiple interactions (usually complex)
- Students with multiple health related absences

IHP Development: It is just a care plan!

- Document baseline assessment necessary to measure outcomes (evaluation)
- Incorporate cultural and social perspectives
- Utilize the nursing process. The sections of an IHP typically include:
 - Assessment
 - Nursing Diagnosis
 - Goals
 - Interventions
 - Expected outcomes

Case Example

Third grade African American boy seeing specialist for initial outpatient visit

Asthma dx made in preschool

Visited ED twice in last 6 months

Missed 15 days of school over past year; mother has missed work and recently lost job

Triggers: fall and spring allergies, exercise, infection

Current treatment: controller BID,

rescue inhaler as needed; adherence +/-



Emergency Action (or Care) Plan

- Plan for others to implement in school setting
- Written for lay person
- Focus on life threatening illness that requires immediate response

Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

- Education plan for students with disabilities
- Includes
 - Current level of performance (baseline)
 - Educational interventions
 - Goals (outcomes)
- Attaching an IHP to an IEP is generally not recommended because IHPs may have to change frequently. An IHP could be referenced in an IEP, but the intent of an IHP is as a nursing care plan rather than addressing an education program or barriers to learning.

504 Plan

Civil rights law

Protect students from discrimination in educational setting



Asthma Action Plan

- Comprehensive treatment plan created by health care provider
- Outlines treatment for asthma in different conditions
- Used by family for home treatment
- Used by school nurse

Contact Information

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