

Nursing Support Services & Delegated Care in Schools

Background Information

Nursing Support Services (NSS) provides support for children with complex health care needs in schools and community settings. Nursing Support Services Program is a service delivered throughout all British Columbia Health Authorities through BC Children’s Hospital. In the last couple of years, it moved from MCFD to PHSA, which means they are now constrained by some of the privacy and workflow expectations from Health, and have less flexibility than may have existed in the past . This document outlines the required steps, and where we may have more flexibility with respect to an individual student’s care plan.

In NLPS, EAs who have been specifically assigned duties by an NSS Nurse are eligible for a stipend and are classified as EA 3. **This is ONLY where an NSS care plan is in place.**

EA3 stipends are not provided where plans are developed with families (e.g. seizure management, or less complex diabetic care plans) . These plans provide school teams key information in terms of caring for a student but are not assigned under the delegation of a nurse (which is a formal way of the nurse assigning duties under the authority of their nursing license).

Ongoing Communication

- If you have a student receiving NSS care in your school, it is recommended that you hold a meeting early in the year between the Principal, IST and NSS nurse to review the school responsibilities and to answer any questions.
- There is also a consent form to be signed between the parent, the NSS coordinator, and the school stating all parties consent to having this care plan be implemented for this student at school. This must be signed ASAP at the start of school as it is necessary for me to implement the delegation.
- Typically NSS staff will include the case manager in ongoing email communication regarding a student’s plan. Except in the case of an urgent change to a plan, nurses should arrange conversations with the EAs through the case manager. It is not expected that the Nurse will have access to the EA directly (e.g. through text)

Delegated Care Plans

- Delegated Care Plans are legal documents that are bound by the rules of the health authority.
- The original document should be kept in a binder where the records are kept (similarly to a “chart” that a patient would have at the hospital).
- As such they **MUST NOT** be duplicated or shared. There are specific rules around the destruction of outdated plans, the nurse may request that you shred it in their presence when an updated plan is provided.
- The plans may be viewed by any individuals involved in the child’s care (e.g. delegated EA, classroom teacher, IST, PVP)
- Because they cannot be duplicated for the designation files, you may use a copy of an Administration of Medication Form, or other note from a doctor, to confirm the diagnosis as part of our documentation for eligibility for designation.
- Nurses are delegating care under their medical licence to staff. This means they must be confident that the individuals trained are fully able to provide this care to students. They are able to request alternative individuals be appointed in the event that someone does not present with level of competence that is required.