

Tips for School Personnel Regarding Educational Article § 7- 426.4

Presented by:
SHNIC Program 2016



The Law

- House Bill 771 is codified under Maryland Code, Educational Article section § 7-426.4
- This bill requires that Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (MDHMH) establish specified guidelines for the administration of specified health care services to specified students with diabetes.

Guideline Requirements

- Procedures for treating and administering medication, and monitoring blood glucose and ketone levels.
- A description of parental or caregiver responsibilities, and school responsibilities.

School Responsibilities

- Instruction by the school nurse for school health service personnel, teachers, coaches, transportation personnel, and other appropriate school personnel as determined by the school including instruction on:
 - Recognizing the symptoms of Hypoglycemia, and Hyperglycemia and the appropriate actions to take;
 - Administering Glucagon in an emergency; and
 - Implementing a student's medical plan and 504.

School Responsibilities

- Ensuring that appropriate school personnel are available to administer insulin during the day and during other school sponsored events and activities.
- Have a description of student's responsibilities.
- Establishing procedures for students who have been determined by the school nurse to be capable of and responsible for self- management of their diabetes in accordance with health care provider orders.
- Any other issue related to school diabetes management.

Parental Responsibilities

- The guideline will address the responsibility of bringing the physician orders to school with all supplies needed to manage their child's diabetes.
- Communicate with school health all changes and provide orders.

Student Responsibilities

The student will follow instructions of the school nurse in regards if they are allow to self-manage their care.

Things for the School Team to Consider

- The need for a 504 plan or an IEP,
- Accommodations,
- Physical Activities,
- Field Trips,
- Social Emotional Needs, and
- Disaster Plan.

504 or Individual Educational Program?

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects individuals with disabilities against discrimination because of their disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
- *Physical or mental impairment* means (A) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive, digestive, genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine.

Individualized Education Program

- If a student has an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) and the student also has the diagnosis of diabetes, accommodations can be placed in the IEP to reflect accommodations that the student needs to access their educational environment related to their medical diagnoses.

Accommodations

- Carry water with them at all times.
- May eat snacks in classroom.
- Access to bathroom.
- Blood glucose Monitoring in classroom.
- Extended time.
- Make up work that was missed due to high or low blood sugars.
- Notified in advance of any school parties where food is being offered.

Accommodations

- Parents can go on all field trips.
- Emotional support for the student.
- Identify method of communication with school health personnel.
- May carry their supplies and food with them at all times
- Testing of blood sugar prior to “big stakes” exams, and if out of target range, take test when in target range

Physical Activity

- Physical activity and exercise are critical parts of diabetes management.
- It is important to remember that students may need to check their blood glucose levels more frequently when exercising.
- Students may need to eat a snack prior to exercising if it has been more than two hours after they have eaten.

Physical Activity

- Physical education teachers, and coaches should have the copy of the student's emergency plan and follow the plan if the student has a hypoglycemic episode.
- In schools that have recess times prior to lunch, remember the two hour rule: student's might have to eat first or have a snack, this should be on their Individualized Diabetes Management Plan (IDMP).

Field Trips

- Students with diabetes can not be denied going on a field trip (no student on a 504).
- Planning and accommodations will need to be done prior to the field trip, following the local school systems procedure of notifying the school health services so that the student with diabetes can be kept safe and their IDMP followed.

Social Emotional Needs

- Students that have been diagnosed with diabetes are not only dealing with usual developmental issues but also learning how to manage the disease.
- Generally, children do not want to be different.
- Children usually want to please their adults.
- Depending on the age of the student, their emotional needs can vary from accepting, anger, open to discussing, or hiding their diagnosis.

Social Emotional Needs

- School personnel will need to understand that students may have emotional needs.
- When this occur, school personnel need to know who to refer the student to and consider the student's developmental age.

Disaster Plan

- The school health nurse should develop a plan to cover a disaster during the school day related to management of students with diabetes.
- This disaster plan should be shared with appropriate school personnel and parents so that the student with diabetes is safe at all times in the school setting.