



School Health Support Services Diabetic Nursing Program

The school health diabetic nursing program is funded through the Waterloo Wellington Community Care Access Center and provided by local nursing agencies. Diabetic Education Centers at our local hospitals and families are important partners in this program. This program enables nurses to provide nursing visits during regular school days for school children with diabetes.

In order to provide the best care possible for your child at school, the school diabetic nurses need your help and assistance in ensuring we all work together. We have created this letter to ensure understanding between parents, nurses and the schools when the school health nursing program is engaged to provide care to your child.

Expectations of Families participating in the School Health Nursing Program:

How do the School Health nurses receive orders (including updates) for my child?

- Registered Nurses are only able to receive **medical orders from a physician or Nurse Practitioner. The orders must contain specific parameters regarding insulin dosages.**
- Registered Nurses can receive these written orders signed by the Physician or Nurse PR actioner from the parents or directly from the physician or diabetic education clinic
- It is the parents' responsibility to ensure the nursing agency is updated the same day that orders are changed.

What supplies are to be sent to school?

- Sharps container (parents can pick them up at any local pharmacy and can return to the pharmacy for disposal when full)
- Lancets have to be disposed of in a sharps container. The CCAC's school health nursing program recommends this be completed at home before or after school.
- If your child is unable to inject themselves, the Registered Nurses must use "Auto Shield" needles for health and safety reasons. Ask your diabetic educator where to purchase these needles.
- Urine strips must be supplied by parents and replenished as needed for the school health nurse to use.
- Ketone strips must be supplied for children on pumps and must be replenished by parents as needed.

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- Glucometer must be supplied by parents. Your child is expected to be carrying the meter and must have strips and extra batteries available.
- Insulin Pen must be supplied by parents for those on injections. Your child is expected to be carrying their insulin pen/ kit. Insulin pens/kits must include an extra cartridge of insulin.

Role of the Parent:

- A logbook or communication book for use between the school nurse and the parent must be utilized so that Blood Glucose (BG's) and any concerns (supplies running low, juice box was used, etc.) can be added into the book. This book must go back and forth on a daily basis and is to be used by parents and the school diabetic nurse.
- Treatment for lows/ emergency diabetes kit must be provided by parents for the child at school with clear direction regarding how much carb is required to treat a low for school staff.
- Each specific food item provided in your child's lunch must have a carb count attached to it either on a list such as a recipe card or with a sticker placed on the item of food.
- The standard of care for school diabetic nurses is that insulin will be given after your child has eaten their lunch unless otherwise instructed by physician, nurse practitioner or the diabetic education clinic nurse

When you will be contacted for management and planning of your child's diabetes while at school:

- If there are lows under 2
- When your child has more than 2 lows/ day
- If blood sugars are greater than 20

When you will be contacted to pick up your child from school:

- If you are on a pump and the blood sugars are over 16, and there are ketones detected, you will be notified to come to the school and manage this potential high risk situation
- If your child is on an insulin pen or insulin injections and the blood sugar is over 20 and they have signs and symptoms of vomiting and/or lethargy, parents will be called to pick up their child. If this is not possible, the school will engage the child's emergency plan which will include calling 911 to access appropriate care.
- If your child is on an insulin pen or insulin injections and your child is not responding to treatment, you will be called to come and pick up your child at the school. If this is not possible, the school will engage the child's emergency plan which will include calling 911 to access appropriate care.
- Parents whose children who are on pumps will be called to pick up their child at school if there are site or pump issues. The school nurse will not have orders to correct this issue. The school nurse will not change infusion sets or give insulin via pen/ syringe in this situation
- The School nurse will not be able to trouble shoot pump issues such as using the bolus wizard to give injections, or modifying delivery systems, etc. In the event that the bolus cannot be given through the pump, the school nurse is not expected to calculate doses to be given by injection. Parents or an alternate caregiver are expected to come and pick up their child from school. If

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this is not possible, the school will engage the emergency plan for the child which will include calling 911 to access appropriate care.

Rights of a Student with Diabetes:

- Being able to use the washroom and go out for drinks as needed
- Eat in the classroom with the other children *
- Have their blood sugar tested in their classroom if needed (including having meters and sharps containers available and safely stored)
- The student has the right to have available treatment for lows (such as juice, dex tablets, jelly beans, skittles, etc.) in the classroom
- The school must provide a safe place for the student to perform diabetic care if not comfortable in the classroom
- The child has the right to advise adults in the school that they are not feeling well and to request assistance of responsible adults in the school

*Collaboration with the school is important to ensure the supervision needs of the child are met

What the nurses will do:

- Support and teach children to become independent with their diabetic care
- Communicate with families, schools and the medical team regarding the child's care
- Deliver competent diabetic nursing care at prescribed times during the regular school day