

News You Can Use: An Update

From the NC School Health Nurse Consultant

N.C. Emergency Guidelines for Schools

The 2009 edition of "Emergency Guidelines for Schools," is now available on the website of the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services for Children (OEMS-C): <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/EMS/injrchild.htm> The OEMS for Children Advisory Committee revised this manual from the one produced by the State of Ohio in 2005 and has been in use in many North Carolina schools for many years. The North Carolina 2009 Edition contains references to North Carolina laws, and it also provides forms that are specific to North Carolina. It is endorsed by the School Nurse Association of North Carolina and the North Carolina Emergency Nurses Association.

Federal grant to increase enrollment in Medicaid for eligible five-year-olds

"Healthy and Ready to Learn" is the name of a federal grant given to the North Carolina Pediatric Society Foundation to increase the enrollment of kindergarten-age children who are eligible for Medicaid or NC Health Choice but currently uninsured. More than a dozen counties will be asked to participate in the first year of the project. The project includes funding for training of school nurses about the benefits of enrolling eligible children for health insurance in order to increase access to a regular source of preventive and acute health care for each eligible child. Modest funding will also be made available to the SHACs (School Health Advisory Council) to assist in the project. More information about this project will be available in January, when a state project coordinator begins her duties and the counties selected for the pilot projects are announced.

504 Coordinator at NC Department of Public Instruction

N.C. Department of Public Instruction has assigned Elissa Brown the duties of statewide 504 Consultant / Coordinator, effective Nov. 30. These duties are in addition those she already held in the office of the Chief Academic Officer. After the New Year, Ms. Brown will be working with local 504 coordinators to continue providing accommodations for students with disabilities.

Revision of Student Permanent Health Record

The revision of the Student Permanent Health Record (form PPS-2P) has been completed, and the revisions incorporate suggestions from school nurses and other users of the folder. Ordering information is available at www.ncpublicschools.org. In the drop down menu for Department, click: Publications Sales. Then Search by Item Number, PP (1st box) S-2P (2nd box). It is sold in packs of 30 for \$10.00. The folder has some changes from previous folders:

- a. color is lighter to facilitate making photocopies
- b. the folder is just a little smaller so it fits inside the “main” folders
- c. it incorporates a number of screening options and lines for referral and follow-up
- d. immunizations section contains a statement that this section is optional and does not serve as an official document.

School Nutrition Services

School nutrition services are a “related service” under IDEA and accommodations are required under 504 laws as well. A group has been convened at the state level to assure that these services are being provided consistently and accurately in the schools. This group, which includes your state school nurse consultant, met on Dec. 9 to discuss issues related to school nutrition for students with special dietary needs. Plans are underway to meet two identified needs that came out of that meeting:

1. the need for training for school nutrition directors and food service staff regarding the needs of students with special dietary restrictions and needs;
2. the need for increased communication among the state’s School Meals Initiative (SMI) consultants and other state consultants, including school nurse consultants.

Each LEA has access to a Schools Meals Initiative consultant from the state Department of Public Instruction. For more information on those consultants, contact DPI.

School-located Influenza Clinics (both seasonal and/or H1N1)

The Division of Public Health, Immunization Branch, wants to thank all school nurses who participated in planning and carrying out the school-located vaccination clinics. Information on how many schools participated and how many students were vaccinated will be shared with school nurses as soon as the clinics are completed.

Kindergarten Health Assessment forms for 2010-2011 school year

The Kindergarten Health Assessment (KHA) forms for the 2010-2011 school year contain no changes from the previous year. The only forms acceptable for school entry is the KHA form issued by DHHS and DPI and dated January 2008. An **exact** facsimile is acceptable, such as those produced by electronic health records. Please discard old forms (with a revision date prior to January 2008). Sufficient quantities of the form for every entering kindergarten student in the state will be sent to each county health department and each school district by the end of January. Individual health care providers such as pediatricians and family practice physicians may download the form at www.nchealthyschools.org.

Immunization Survey at School Nurse Conference

The Immunization Branch of Women's and Children's Health Section is reviewing the feedback provided to them through the survey presented at the conference in October. Some findings:

1. The majority said that the best way for the Immunization Branch to communicate information about immunizations is through the regional school nurse consultants (54%) and the second best way is through web postings.
2. The majority of school nurses who completed the survey (62%) said they do teach adolescents about the vaccines they might need.
3. The overwhelming majority (79%) complete the annual immunization reports for their school.
4. Nearly three quarters of the respondents knew about Garrett's Law and how to access materials, but 16% were not familiar with Garrett's Law (which was defined as: materials about flu, HPV and meningococcal vaccines).

A number of comments centered around these school immunization issues:

1. School nurses not being able to obtain records from parents and/or providers
2. Principals not enforcing the requirement to exclude a child from school if immunizations are not up to date
3. A desire to remove the 30-day "grace period" for immunizations and Kindergarten Health Assessment.
4. A desire for the state to mandate that health care providers fully utilize the NC Immunization Registry.
5. A desire that the state "let us" (school nurses) vaccinate the students directly. (Immunization Branch does not prohibit school nurses from vaccinating *per se* and the Branch suggests school nurses work with their local health departments to assist in these efforts if desired.)

School Immunization Compliance Survey

The Immunization Branch has reviewed the annual Immunization Survey required of each school. Following are some preliminary findings from the survey:

Kindergarten:

Missing 40 reports from public schools (out of approximately 2,400 public schools)

Missing 268 reports from private schools

Public schools show kids 96% up to date with immunizations. Public school students with medical exemptions: 0.13%; public school students with religious exemptions: 0.7%

Private school students show kids 96% up to date with 0.29% holding medical exemptions and 1.56% holding religious exemptions.

6th grade reports:

Missing 65 reports from public schools

Missing 315 from private schools

Public schools show kids 96% up to date with Tdap; medical exemptions to the Tdap booster are at 0.09% and religious exemptions to the Tdap are at 0.39%

Private schools show kids 94% up to date with Tdap; 0.3% hold medical exemptions and 1.06% claim religious exemptions.

Care of students with diabetes

A recent article in *USA Today* referred to North Carolina's law regarding the care of students with diabetes in school. Some excerpts from the article:

"In North Carolina, two people in each school must be trained to serve a child with diabetes, in case one is absent," says nurse Jean Litton, a diabetes educator with Duke Medical Center's Pediatric Diabetes Program.

"Miranda Rudd says she has confidence in her son's school. Nicholas, 10, has type 1 diabetes and is a fifth-grader at Franklinton (NC) elementary school. When he came to the school in second grade, the nurse and staff were very willing to help, Rudd says. "They have three first responders, teachers who are certified and I know them pretty well. One of them comes every day at 11:30, 15 minutes before lunchtime, and pulls Nicholas out so he can go to the teachers' lounge, where she monitors him as he checks his blood sugar."

Title: "More kids have diabetes, fewer schools have nurses"

Author: Mary Brophy Marcus

Children with High-Risk medical Conditions and H1N1, a webcast

From April – November 2009, approximately 200 children under the age of 18 have died in the US from the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. To increase awareness and educate parents, the CDC developed a podcast for use titled, 2009 H1N1 Information for Parents who have Children with High-Risk Medical Conditions. This 8 minute podcast serves as a great tool to share with parents who have children in this high risk category! It may be accessed at the following link: <http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=393367>

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, December 3, 2009

New Mexico Releases Online Pediatric Emergency Training Modules

The N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) wants to make you aware of a CEU offering from the New Mexico EMS-C Program. The continuing education units (CEUs) are available for each of their pediatric modules and are valid for EMS providers in all states and territories. The 28 modules include some that are specific to school nurses. A school nurse may submit the CEU certificate for either national certification or state RN license renewal; however, each certifying body would determine if the CEU is acceptable. To access the online training modules, go to <http://hsc.unm.edu/emersed/PED/emsc/training/training.shtml>. You may also access the modules by visiting www.pediatricemergencytraining.com. There is a \$5 maintenance fee per hour of continuing education. For more information, please contact Robert Sapien, MD at RSapien@salud.unm.edu.

School Nursing: Roles and Responsibilities, a Regional Training

The Regional School Nurse Consultants have just concluded rolling out this fall's sessions of School Nursing: Roles and Responsibilities, an Orientation Workshop. Rather than a statewide training in a conference site, the workshops this Fall took on a regional flavor, with smaller groups and more individualized attention. This training is required of all nurses hired with the SNFI or the CFST funds. It is recommended for other new school nurses. If a school nurse still needs orientation from her regional school nurse consultant, please have her contact the regional consultant or the state consultant in Raleigh.