

SPECIALIZED PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES (SPHCS)

For Educationally Based Specialized Physical Health Care in
Glenn County Schools

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MISSION STATEMENT

To provide and implement policies and procedures that will meet the specialized physical health care needs of students with an Individual Education Program (IEP) in a uniform and consistent manner throughout Glenn County in compliance with federal regulations, state laws, and professional standards of practice.

1. Definitions

A) **Specialized Physical Health Care Services (SPHCS)** means those health services prescribed by the child's licensed physician and/or surgeon requiring medically related training for the individual who performs the services and which are necessary during the school day to enable the child to attend school. These include but are not limited to medication administration, catheterization, gastrostomy feeding, suctioning, seizure care, diabetes care, tracheostomy care, and postural drainage.

B) **Standardized Procedures** means protocols and procedures developed through collaboration among school, hospital, and health professionals, including licensed physicians and surgeons and nurses, to be utilized in the provision of the specialized physical health care services.

C) **Chronically ill** is defined as having a health condition or disease that is persistent or otherwise long-lasting in its effects or a disease that comes with time. The term chronic is often applied when the course of the disease lasts for more than three months.

D) **Emergency Care Plan** a set of procedural guidelines that provides specific directions about what to do in a particular student health emergency.

E) **Individualized School Health Plan (ISHP)** is a written document that outlines the provision of student healthcare services intended to achieve specific student outcomes during the school day.

F) **Medically Fragile** is a condition which may be life threatening and requires interpretation, intervention, and monitoring.

G) **Other Health Impaired**, for the purposes of students with SPHCS, means having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment that is due to chronic or acute health problems.

H) **Technology Dependent** is defined as one who needs both a mechanical device to compensate for the loss of a vital body function and substantial and ongoing nursing care to avert death or further disability.

2. Providers of Specialized Physical Health Care Services in the School Setting

A) Section 49423.5 of Education Code, notwithstanding section 49422, states that any individual with exceptional needs who requires specialized physical health care services, during the regular school day, may be assisted by any of the following individuals:

1. Qualified persons who possess an appropriate school nurse credential issued pursuant to Section 44267 or 44267.5.
2. Qualified designated school personnel that could be but is not limited to the following, a licensed vocational nurse, medical assistant, teacher, paraprofessional, or educational staff, trained in the administration of the specialized physical health care and if they perform those services under the supervision, as defined in Section 3051.12 of Title 5, CCR, of a credentialed school nurse or licensed physician and surgeon in consultation with the physician treating the student, to include all of the following:
 1. That the SPHCS is routine for the student.
 2. That the SPHCS poses little potential harm for the student.
 3. That the SPHCS is performed with predictable outcomes, as defined in the individualized program of the student.
 4. That the SPHCS does not require a nursing assessment, interpretation, or decision making by the designated school personnel.

B) Specialized physical health care services that require medically related training shall be provided pursuant to the procedure prescribed by Section 49423 of education code.

C) Persons providing specialized physical health care services shall annually demonstrate competence in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation and shall be knowledgeable of the emergency medical resources available in the community in which the services are provided.

3. General Role of the Credentialed School Nurse with Regard to SPHCS

A) The credentialed school nurse is a member of the IEP team and is uniquely qualified to identify and assess students with specialized physical health care needs. For any specialized physical health care services that are not given directly by the credentialed school nurse, the site administrator will take the recommendation regarding staffing for them from the credentialed school nurse and designate the person to perform the required specialized physical health care services. The credentialed school nurse is responsible for training, determining competency, and supervising the designated employee and keeping the site administrator informed of the designated employee's performance.

1. As a member of the IEP team, the credentialed school nurse will:

- Identify and/or help to identify students who may have physical health needs requiring accommodations.
- Determine the need for IEP health assessments, focusing on the areas of suspected health disability and current levels of performance.
- Document the health assessment to enable the IEP team to ensure the least restrictive environment for the student.
- Provide case management and facilitate collaboration with health care providers and other professionals in the coordination of health services to ensure the safe care of students.
- Provide training and supervision of Designated Instructional Services (DIS) or Specialized Physical Health Care Services (SPHCS) and monitor licensed and unlicensed assistive personnel providing such services.
- Help to establish individual school health and emergency plans, identifying team members and the chain of command.

B) Any student with a health condition requiring ongoing nursing management at school should have an Individualized School Health Plan (ISHP) and/or an Emergency Care Plan, which should be attached to the IEP. The credentialed school nurse is the only school personnel qualified to write the ISHP, Emergency Care Plan, health component of the IEP and/or to determine the appropriate level of care for the student. It is the credentialed school nurse who provides the ongoing evaluation of the appropriateness of the health plan and initiates revisions as needed.

4. Process to Request Assessment by the Credentialed School Nurse

A) To ensure that the credentialed school nurse is properly notified of the request for health evaluation and/or vision and hearing assessment, a completed form, SELPA Health Evaluation Request must be submitted. Refer to Appendix for further information.

5. Health Assessments

A) Vision and Hearing screening is normally conducted when the student is in a grade that is mandated by the state to be screened. Students in grades K, 2, 5, 8, are screened for both hearing and vision. Students in 10th grade are screened for hearing only. In the case of an initial IEP or Triennial/Reevaluation, vision and hearing screening results must be within one year of the meeting to be compliant (34 CFR 300.304(c)(4), 30 EC 56320(f), 30 EC 5632, 5 CCR 3027). Vision and Hearing assessments for students enrolled in regional programs are every three years in synchronization with their Triennial year.

1. The results of the vision and hearing screenings should be entered in the appropriate vision and hearing fields on the present levels page of IEP upon completion. Notification of having done this should be given to the case manager and/or psychologist via phone or email.

B) If indicated on the Assessment Plan, the school nurse will complete a health assessment to further determine the level of specialized health care needed in the school setting that is required to be addressed in the IEP. This assessment will consist of a health and developmental history, summarized, and included as part of the Health and Development Information section of the psychoeducational assessment report.

C) If a health assessment is not indicated and the IEP team has decided to conduct a record review for a Triennial then an assessment plan is not required to obtain permission to conduct a vision or hearing screening. This is considered routine screening, and parent/guardian consent as part of their enrollment packet.

6. Role of the Credentialed School Nurse in Developing the IEP

A) Prior to the IEP meeting:

1. Ensure current Vision and Hearing screening results are entered into IEP present levels of academic achievement and functional performance page.
2. Ensure that information within the health field in the IEP present levels of academic achievement and functional performance page are updated to reflect current health and medical information. Indications for the accommodations and SPHCS must be included and not limited to the following: Diagnosis, significant health history, allergies, medications administered both in and out of school, immunization status, if parent has opted out of any routine health screenings and/or why vision and hearing screening results are not current. A description of what SPHCS to be performed may also be included.
3. Confirm with the program specialist that health services, programs, and accommodations are appropriately indicated in the IEP within the offer of FAPE-services page in the direct, supplementary aids, services, and other supports for school personnel, or for student, on behalf of the student section as required. For example, school staff and/or parent consultation with the school nurse.
4. Collaborate with the program specialist that the Specialized Physical Health Care Services are appropriately indicated in the IEP within the offer of FAPE-services page in the Special Education and Related Services section in IEP if the student will receive specialized physical health care services under a doctor's prescription or orders.
 - a. Type of Specialized Physical Health Care service should be listed, location of where it will be performed identified, duration, frequency, and total minutes should also be specified.
 - b. Health and Nursing, Specialized Physical Health Care Services are limited to specific procedures as prescribed by a physician, G-Tube feeds, catheterization, suctioning, etc.

C. Health and Nursing, Other Services include services such as medications, feeding, toileting/diapering, positioning, and 1:1 health aide, as well as the development of emergency and/or health care plans and training of staff.

5. Confirm with the program specialist that the Health and/or Emergency Care Plan are included with the IEP. The date of when the Plan was revised and when it should be reviewed should also be indicated in the IEP.

B) During the IEP Meeting

1. For Initial and Triennial meetings, report out findings from the Health Assessment and any other information relevant to the student's health or implementation of SPHCS. This action is as required for annual meetings.

2. Participate in the discussion of the development of the IEP as described previously within this document.

3. Participate in making decisions about goals, placement, and services for the student.

C) After the IEP Meeting

1. Ensure that relevant health information has been uploaded to the IEP document such as authorization, Health and Development History report, physician's orders, and documentation of training on the health and/or Emergency Care Plan in IEP.

7. Discontinuation of Specialized Physical Health Care Services

A) The discontinuation of Specialized Physical Health Care Services can be determined by the student's licensed medical provider in consultation with the credentialed school nurse and the student's parent/guardian. An IEP meeting will be required to finalize the change. An example of when this would be indicated is when a student gains independence in their care and no longer requires assistance or observation.

APPENDIX

1. Process to Request Assessment by the Credentialed School Nurse

A) To ensure that the credentialed school nurse is properly notified of the request for health evaluation and/or vision and hearing assessment, a completed form, SELPA Health Evaluation Request, found in the SEIS document library. (www.seis.org), must be submitted to the credentialed school nurse. The form is located in the IEP reference materials, next, document library, then Medical section tabs.

1. The top portion of the form should be completed entirely by the case manager or psychologist then submitted to the credentialed school nurse via fax, PONY, email and/or in person at a minimum of two weeks prior to the date the information is needed.

2. List of Source Codes and definitions? Taken from Item 7-A-4