

IDENTIFYING STUDENTS WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM CARE COORDINATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Approximately 25% of children ages two to eight have a chronic health condition. Not all students with a chronic health condition require case management by the school nurse, but it is important to identify those students that would have better health and be better ready to learn in the classroom if they receive this care. It is part of the school nurse's role to identify students with health needs and make plans to address them at school to support both student health and academic success. For students with a chronic health condition, school nurse led care coordination and case management may be the best approach to care.

What is case management?

- It is a team approach between the child's personal and school health team (student, family, healthcare provider[s], school personnel), led by the school nurse.
- Activities at school are outlined in the student's individualized healthcare plan, or IHP.
- Working together, the team plans for the best care to meet the health and learning needs of the student and monitors how the needs are being met.

Some of the ways students may be identified by the school nurse who would benefit from care coordination and case management include:

- school reports that show frequent absences that could be related to the student's health
- teacher reports of a student that appears to be struggling with a health or education issue in class
- healthcare provider medical orders that are sent to school
- health information forms families fill out and send into school
- students that frequent the school nurse health office
- a parent or guardian reports a new medical diagnosis for their child to the school office or school nurse
- a parent or guardian requests school health services
- students with an educational plan, such as an IEP accommodation plan or a 504 plan, who also have a chronic health condition – better care of the chronic health condition can lead to better classroom learning

If a student has been identified as one who would benefit from case management and care coordination at school, the school nurse will develop an IHP to support both student health and learning. The school nurse will:

- perform a nursing assessment to identify the focus of care needed at school
- include input from the student and family to confirm the focus and identify health and learning goals
- share the developed plan with the student and family before it is put into action at school
- protect the privacy of student health information stored at school
- monitor implementation of the plan on a regular basis to decide if the IHP is working and if the student continues to need case management or care coordination at school