

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

July 28, 2010

TO: CAROL COMEAU, SUPERINTENDENT  
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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS



FROM: CINDY ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SPECIAL EDUCATION

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTATION OF NURSING AND ELIGIBLE MEDICAL SERVICES  
PROVIDED TO A SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT

*Must a school district provide health services and/or nurse services to a medically fragile student?*

Yes, if the child needs them to receive FAPE (a free appropriate public education) and the services can be performed by non-physicians, then the school district must provide them. They are covered related services.

*How does an IEP team document the student's nursing or medical services in the IEP?*

A student's access to individualized nursing services should always be documented on the IEP as nursing services are clearly related services under the federal law:

1. The information should be provided in Page 2 of the student's IEP and identify what current nursing or medical services are being provided for the student. The Present Level section of the IEP should also reference to any specific nursing plans or emergency/crisis plans.
2. Page 8 of the student's IEP should include any modifications or accommodations, including a description of the individualized nursing services and the regularity with which the services are provided, i.e., blood sugar testing briefly 3x daily, G-tube feeding daily lasting x number of minutes in session, nursing consult as need for "x" condition, etc.

Documentation of nursing services on page 9 occurs in three possible ways:

1. Nursing services are documented in a manner similar to transportation services (0 hours) if the nursing services do not detract from instructional time. Students who require intermittent services as opposed to daily services would have documentation that follows this.
2. Individual nursing services that interrupt instruction or are not able to be provided concurrently with instruction are documented by identifying the time required for the services on a daily basis. Calculation of the time period should reflect the period of time the student misses daily from the instructional setting.
3. For students who are being provided treatments during periods like lunch (perhaps a G tube feeding), documentation of the nursing time reflects the period of time a student is removed from the general education setting. In these situations, the student is then presumably unable to interact with typically developing peers and District personnel would need to document these hours on page 9, even though instruction had not been interrupted.

*Q. How does a team document self care activities such as bathrooming?*

Teacher assistant support in the personal care area, including bathroom assistance, are not medical or nursing services.