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A Nurse in the Classroom: What to Expect

PUBLIC AND SEPARATE SCHOOLS

The nurse provided through the South West CCAC is at the school to meet the health care needs of the child. **It is not expected that the nurse provide academic/educational support for the child and it is imperative that the nurse NOT be expected to cover school staff lunch/breaks or be left in attendance with other classroom children.** The nurse will make every effort to provide health care in a sensitive and discreet manner that coordinates with academic support provided by school personnel and enables the child's full participation in school life.

What does the nurse do? The nurse contracted by the South West CCAC assumes responsibility for an

Individual care plan developed specifically for that child while the child is at school.

Often in the school setting this care is provided within a team of nurses

providing care to other children requiring nursing care. Components of care plans at school may include the following:

- Feeding via tubes: G-tubes, J-tubes, nasogastric tubes
- Medication administration via any of these tubes
- Some injected medications
- Care of a tracheostomy

- Deep respiratory suctioning (past the back of the throat)
- Management of a mechanical ventilator
- Sterile catheterization
- Manual expression of bladder or stoma
- Training of school personnel in routine care procedures that don't require a nurse under PPM 81

Care may be provided in the classroom, on the playground and on school outings. Care may also be provided in transit to and from school if the Care Coordinator assessment identifies an ongoing need.

How are the components of the care plan determined?

The Care Coordinator consults with the child's family, health care and education teams when arranging nursing services for school. Some care components that might normally be part of a nursing care plan at home normally are designated to other persons in the school setting as outlined in PPM 81.

519-474-5667
1-877-900-5667

What about other tasks?

Your child may have needs beyond the mandate of the South West CCAC contracted nurses. Some of the following care components may be provided by educational personnel:

- Administration of oral medications
- Shallow/oral suctioning (per 1989/90 addendum to PPM 81)
- Non-sterile/intermittent catheterization (per 1989/90 addendum to PPM 81)
- Lifting and positioning
- Assistance with mobility
- Feeding (oral)
- Toileting/incontinence care
- General maintenance exercises prescribed by therapists including chest therapy

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