

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN THE DELEGATION OF INSULIN PUMPS IN SCHOOL SETTINGS POSITION STATEMENT

QUESTION: Can the school nurse delegate the management of care for children with diabetes who use insulin pumps in school settings?

OVERVIEW:

Diabetes has been determined as a disability under the Diabetes Education Act and The Americans with Disabilities Act. Under these laws accommodations should be provided within the student's usual school setting with as little disruption to the student's routine as possible and allowing the student full participation in all school activities.

POSITION:

1. Appropriate diabetic care in the school setting is a responsibility of the school nurse.
2. Care of students with health care needs must be individualized and supervised by a Registered Nurse who is accountable for the care provided.
3. The delegation of procedures/treatments is a nursing decision based on the guidelines delineated in the Board of Nursing's Position Statement on Delegation.
4. Delegation of care for children on insulin pumps should be confined to procedures that do not require nursing assessment, judgment, evaluation or complex skills.
5. Procedures that may be appropriate to delegate include inputting carbohydrate counts and blood sugar levels, and activation of the pump to infuse a pump-calculated insulin bolus, correction, or total dose.
6. Inserting a new infusion set, disconnecting and reconnecting tubing, filling and priming a pump are not appropriate to delegate since they involve complex skills.
7. The Registered Nurse is responsible for the coordination and oversight of assistive personnel and will:
 - Identify the task to be performed
 - Provide education and training
 - Evaluate the ability of the assistive personnel
 - Evaluate the performance of the task
 - Develop detailed protocol procedures
 - Develop an individualized health care plan with parent involvement and input from the Medical Team
 - Provide for immediate accessibility to a health care provider to answer questions and provide direction if the school nurse is not on site

This Position Statement represents the Board's current thinking. Position statements are not legally binding.

Approved: January 2007