



# The Role of the School Nurse

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# Definition of School Nursing

“School nursing, a specialized practice of nursing, protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. School nurses, grounded in ethical and evidence-based practice, are the leaders who bridge health care and education, provide care coordination, advocate for quality student-centered care, and collaborate to design systems that allow individuals and communities to develop their full potential.”

*Adopted by the NASN Board of Directors February 2017*



# The Role of the School Nurse

- Health Leader
- Care Coordinator
- Emergency Responder
- Healthcare Provider
- Health Advocate
- Health Educator
- Community Health Coordinator



# School Nurse as a Health Leader

- Provides professional nursing input for effective school health policies and programs



# Health Leader Examples

## Health & Safety Policies

- Life threatening conditions
  - Anaphylaxis
  - Over Dose
- School Bus Accidents
- Communicable Disease Control
  - Bed Bugs
  - Head Lice
- Medication

## Health Programs

- Asthma
- Division of Public Health  
Dental Programs
- Healthy lifestyles/wellness
- Hygiene
- Risk-reducing behaviors
- Self-care
- Vision to Learn



# School Nurse as a Care Coordinator

- Coordinate student healthcare between the medical home, family and school
- Deliver quality healthcare and nursing interventions for actual and potential health problems



# Care Coordinator Examples

- Assessment of the individual health care needs of students
- Nursing care and treatment for illnesses and injuries
- Assessment and early identification/interventions related to mental health needs of students
  - Referral and collaboration with school counselor, the family and other community behavioral resources
  - Follow up with student as needed after a mental health or behavioral concern
- Case management for students with chronic health conditions
- Administration and management of prescribed and over-the-counter medications and treatments



# Care Coordinator Examples (continued)

- Collection of required school entry health record information such as:
  - Delaware Emergency Treatment Card
  - Emergency Healthcare Plans & Action Plans
  - Health examinations & sports physicals
  - Immunization records
  - Medication parent/guardian permission forms
- Participate in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and development of 504 Plans
- Referral to community resources for clothing, dental services, clothing and vision exams/eye glasses
- Providing disease surveillance and follow up



# School Nurse as a Emergency Responder

- Integral partner in developing plans for first aid, facilitating evacuations, caring for special needs students, performing triage responsibilities, and educating and training staff



# Emergency Responder Examples

- CPR/AED instructor or resource
- Implementation of emergency medication standing orders
- Member of School Crisis Team



# School Nurse as a Healthcare Provider

- For many students, the School Nurse is often their healthcare provider



# Healthcare Provider Examples

- Treatment of immediate injuries/illness
- Manage chronic health conditions
- Referral for mental health/counseling services
- Perform health screenings & referrals
  - Hearing
  - Scoliosis
  - Vision



# School Nurse as a Health Advocate

- Proactive in improving student health
- Instrumental in promoting student safety



# Health Advocate Examples

## Student self-management

- Diabetes
- Asthma

## School Safety Plans

- Bullying
- School Violence
- Emergency situations



# School Nurse as a Community Health Coordinator

- Identifies communicable diseases and other health trends
- Refers to community health and social service resources



# Community Health Coordinator Examples

- Assist DPH in disease outbreak
  - Flu
  - Tuberculosis
  - Vaccine preventable diseases
- Referrals to
  - Healthcare providers
  - Mental health/counseling services
  - Financial resources
  - Basic needs items
    - Clothing/toiletries
    - Shelter
    - Food pantries



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