

Student Health needs on extended, out-of-state field trips

Key questions to consider
What we learned

Educational

- Assess:
 - Timeline/destination of trip
 - Is there an educational plan?
 - Yes, Student had 504 Plan
 - Is there language in 504 regarding fieldtrips?
 - Yes: "If a parent is not able to accompany student on a field trip, someone who is qualified to administer all diabetic related care will be provided by the school to accompany the student."
 - Under ADA rules, the school cannot require the parent to go
 - Other proposed options:
 - Is parent willing and able to go?
 - Could trusted adult friend (who is going) provide care?
 - Could other adult going who might have experience with the medical problem, either with their children or themselves provide care?
 - Does school administrator /504 delegate have knowledge/clarity regarding students with health care needs?
 - Does district policy prohibit out of state delegation?

Student/Healthcare Plan

- Assess:
 - Level of independence
 - Student not fully independent with self-care skills
 - Level of stability
 - Extended hours may require procedures not typically performed at school
 - Will delegatee be put in situation requiring nursing judgment?
 - Supplies
 - Can family provide all supplies needed including those not ordinarily used at school?
 - If not, is there another resource for supplies if appropriate?
 - Will the student's medical provider support the student attending?
 - Are they willing to write extended (overnight) orders if needed?

Professional Practice

- What is scope of practice and parameters regarding delegation?
 - Does the "24/7" situation of the trip alter safe delegation?
- What is "Nurse Licensure Compact"?
 - Is the "party state" (fieldtrip destination) a member?
 - Find out at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nlc.htm>
 - Find/read the Nurse Practice Act of the party state
 - Does it provide all the information you need?
 - Call party state board of nursing for any clarity needed
 - What about week long trip?

Our Experience/Conclusion

- Administration needed clarity regarding:
 - Nursing scope of practice/delegation requirements
 - Measure of student healthcare needs
 - High parental anxiety (opted to not allow child to go on trip)
 - Appropriateness of waiving responsibility of care to others
 - Sought school administrative/legal advice for guidance
 - Determined not appropriate to "waiver" for this situation due to 504 language
- The party state is not a "compact" state
 - Nurse practice act was more restrictive regarding delegation
 - Nurse practice act prohibits party state licensed contract nurse from using out-of-state (our home state) provider orders
 - Phone contact with state board of nursing clarified that professional courtesy is extended for short stays
 - Provided professional courtesy in writing
 - Case by case only
 - No assumption that courtesy has blanket extension for every situation or timeframe
