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School Nursing Consultant

Objectives

- School nurses will be able to:
  - Identify nurse practice concerns when planning for field trips
  - Identify student health needs that need to be addressed before school field trips occur

The Issue

- The number of children attending school with special healthcare needs and complex medical conditions continues to increase
- In the U.S, 26.6% of children have special healthcare needs (Van Cleave, Gortmaker, & Perrin, 2010)
- Federal laws mandate schools to provide ALL students equal opportunity to participate in academic, nonacademic, and extracurricular activities (including school-sponsored field trips)

Federal Laws

- Three Federal Laws protect students with disabilities:
  - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - Title II of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA), reauthorized in 2004

Federal Laws

- Students who require health services may not be excluded or denied access to activities
- Not all school children have access to a registered professional school nurse
- Field trips may occur locally, within a state, out-of-state or even out-of-country

No Relationship to Disclose

- The presenter, Bette Carr, discloses the absence of personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this educational activity within the past 12 months.
2. School Nurses—Reduce your Stress: Prepare NOW for School Field Trips

Out-of-State Regulation of Nursing Practice

- Nursing Scope of Practice “Nurse Practice Act” regulated by State Boards of Nursing
- Standards of Practice are developed by national nursing organizations, i.e., NASN and ANA

School Nursing Practice

- Scope of practice varies from state to state
- Be especially aware of the scope of licensed practical nursing practice; varies greatly across the U.S.

Out-of-State Field Trips

- Nurse responsible for knowing the scope of practice for nurses in the state they will be traveling into plus their home state
- **Areas of particular importance:**
  - Delegation
  - Medication administration
  - Emergency care

Delegation

- ANA defines as:
  - ...transferring the responsibility of performing a nursing activity to another person while retaining accountability for the outcome
  - (ANA/NCSBN, 2006; National Association of State School Nurse Consultants [NASSNC], 2010).
NASN Position Paper on Delegation

Nurses are accountable to:
- State laws, rules and regulations
- Employer/agency regulations
- Standards of professional school nursing practice, including those pertaining to delegation (NASN, 2010)

Nurse Licensure Compact States (NLC)
- Allows nurses from NLC states to practice in another NLC state without a second license
- Similar to a driver’s license

24 Member States

Mutual Recognition

Nurse Licensure Compact
- Currently 24 NLC states
- Applies to RNs and LPNs
- Does not apply to unlicensed personnel or APRNs

Out-of-Country Field Trips
- In countries with a licensing body that registers nurses you will need to contact the country’s registration authority to learn what is required to practice as a nurse in that country
- In countries where a system of nurse registration has not yet been established you will need to provide proof of your nursing licensure from the U.S.
- Contact the U.S. State Department for specific questions
Health Services Considerations

• Is the state you are visiting a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact?

• Do you know the scope of practice in the state you are visiting?

• Do you know if delegation to unlicensed personnel is permitted in the state you are visiting?

NCSBN’s Position

NASN’s Executive Director, Donna Mazyck, met with NCSBN (July, 2012) and requested a clarification on medication administration for students on school trips that occur in states outside the student’s home state. NCSBN’s response was:

“...the school nurse will need to contact the boards of nursing in the states where the field trips occur in order to determine the practice allowances for the licensed nurse related to delegation of nursing functions.”

Plan Ahead

• Student Considerations:
  ○ Use of the Nursing Assessment
  ○ Accommodations as specified in the IHP, IEP or 504 Plan
  ○ Emergency Action Plans

Plan Ahead

• Student Considerations:
  ○ Determine needed health services, frequency of service need, the level of care required
  ○ Legal and safe delegation of nursing services if allowed in state to be visited
  ○ Availability of trained staff to provide healthcare services
Plan Ahead

- Student Considerations:
  - Are Emergency Medical Services available where the students will be located
  - Are there dietary needs that need to be planned for
  - Food allergies need to be considered in meal planning

Plan Ahead

- Student Considerations:
  - If parents volunteer to chaperone other students, what will your school policy be
  - Do you need orders for meds given at hours other than the school day hours
  - Are there permission for treatment forms signed by the parents

Plan Ahead

- Student Considerations:
  - Documentation and confidentiality of student information
  - Reasonable accommodations for students with special health care needs

Plan Ahead

- Student Considerations:
  - Options for cancellation or alteration of the trip if all students cannot be reasonably accommodated
  - Invite parents to accompany the student on the field trip. Parents cannot be required to attend.

From Wisconsin

- Most common states traveled to by Wisconsin students:
  - Illinois
  - Minnesota
  - Iowa
  - Florida
  - New York
  - Washington D.C.

From Wisconsin

- Most common states traveled to by Wisconsin students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ILLINOIS</td>
<td>Must have an Illinois license in order to practice or delegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINNESOTA</td>
<td>Must have a Minnesota license in order to practice or delegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOWA</td>
<td>Compact state May practice or delegate while students are traveling through</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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From Wisconsin

- Most common states traveled to by Wisconsin students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLORIDA</td>
<td>Must notify Florida that you will be practicing in Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW YORK</td>
<td>May practice while traveling through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON DC</td>
<td>May practice or delegate while traveling through</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

- School-sponsored field trips enhance a student’s educational experience
- Review of state laws, regulations and nursing scope of practice for school health services is critical when planning and problem solving for students requiring health services on out-of-state field trips.

References

- Kentucky Department of Public Education, (2013). Providing care for students with special health care needs on out-of-state field trips, presentation by K. Erwin
- National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC), Position Paper on Field Trips
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (2012) Medication Administration

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