GUIDELINES ON WHEN TO DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED HEALTHCARE PLAN

An Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) is used within an educational setting as a process to document preparation and planning for students’ academic success. The IHP is developed using the nursing process and is specifically developed to address and manage the health needs of individual students.

As per the Texas Education Agency’s Division of IDEA Coordination:

“Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), related services are a wide array of supportive services provided to children with disabilities to assist them in benefiting from special education. Specifically, the IDEA defines related services as transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services necessary for a child with a disability to benefit from special education. The need for related services is considered during the student’s admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee meeting as the committee reviews and discusses the student’s evaluation and assessment data. Related services include, but are not limited to:

- Audiology services
- Counseling services
- Interpreting services
- Medical services (only to diagnose or evaluate a student’s disability)
- Occupational therapy
- Orientation and mobility services
- Parent counseling and training
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Recreation
- Rehabilitation counseling services
- School health services (including assistance with health-related needs during the school day, e.g. catheterization)
- Social work services in school
- Speech-language therapy*
- Transportation

* In Texas, speech-language is considered an instructional service. This means it can be a stand-alone service as well as a supportive service.

Each student’s need for related services, like the need for special education, is determined by the student’s ARD committee as part of the individualized education (IEP) process.”

Students who are receiving Special Education services and who require school health services designed to enable students with disabilities to receive a free appropriate public education must have an individualized healthcare plan.
Listed are guidelines to aid in determining when it is appropriate to develop and IHP:

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<tr>
<th>SEVERITY (1)</th>
<th>SEVERITY (2)</th>
<th>SEVERITY (3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-managed disease process</td>
<td>Disease process controlled w/medication/treatment</td>
<td>Disease process w/complex care</td>
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<td>No exacerbations with in the last 6 months</td>
<td>Occasional exacerbations requiring additional medication(s), treatments, and/or therapy. All students with scheduled treatments/procedures.</td>
<td>Uncontrolled, poorly managed, and/or unstable disease process including all Epinephrine Auto-Injectors and Diazepam rectal gel.</td>
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<td>Rarely seen in the school clinic. 3 or less clinic visits related to disease process within a semester. No nurse involvement in routine/daily care.</td>
<td>Frequent school clinic visits. More than 3 clinic visits related to disease process within a semester Occasional nurse involvement in routine/daily care.</td>
<td>Frequent school clinic visits. More than 3 clinic visits related to disease process within a 6 week period. Daily nurse involvement in routine/daily care.</td>
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<tr>
<th>INFORMATION SHEET TO THE TEACHER REQUIRED</th>
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<td>ACTION PLAN OPTIONAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHP OPTIONAL</td>
<td>IHP OPTIONAL (REQUIRED FOR ALL TREATMENTS)</td>
<td>IHP REQUIRED</td>
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**Periodic Review:**

IHPs must be reviewed and updated at least every semester.

IHPs must be updated anytime there is a change in medication, treatment and/or therapy.

IHPs should be reviewed and updated at each annual ARD.

An IHP may be shared with building staff, depending upon the student’s condition and the staff member’s involvement in the plan. Every precaution should be taken to prevent the reading or viewing of IHPs by anyone other than the person(s) responsible for the student’s care and safety.

The campus diagnostician will request the attendance of the school nurse at scheduled ARD meetings for those students enrolled who receive Special Education services and school health services (must have IHP). The campus diagnostician will request a copy of the IHP prior to the scheduled ARD meeting. The IHP will be reviewed during the ARD meeting and a copy of the IHP will be filed with the ARD packet.

If the campus nurse is unable to attend the ARD, the nurse must provide a copy of the IHP to the diagnostician prior to the scheduled meeting.