

Top Ten Tips for Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)

1. **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) is a plan of care** for the student with special health care needs who requires medical attention and services during the school day. The child's condition, potentially, may create an emergency or crisis. The IHP assists the child to attend school, participate in school with their friends in the classroom and on field trips.
2. **The authority for the IHP is the Nurse Practice Act**, under the title of "Provision of Nursing Care". The Registered Nurse (RN) has the authority to determine level of need, provide training to staff and determine medical competence of the staff assigned by the principal. Parents assist with training and competence with the RN.
3. **The purpose of the IHP is to communicate all the medical needs of the child** including day to day care, emergency care and to articulate expected actions of school staff.
4. **The school nurse (RN) is responsible for the development of the IHP**. Parents provide lots of information and assist the RN with training. All interventions and medical procedures are prescribed by the child's doctor.
5. **If there is no School Nurse?** Only an RN can make the medical decisions about level of care, provide training and supervise care. The RN can be a volunteer. The administrator can contact the Educational Service Unit (ESU), local health department or NE Dept of Health and Human Services for consultation.
6. **The school administrator is responsible to identify staff**, plan for training, support RN and staff, communicate with parents and ensure the legal and ethical adequacy of medical care as well as legal considerations in the IEP or 504 Plans.
7. **The components of the IHP are student specific**. They include: Diagnosis/condition, statement of assessment, routine and predictable needs, emergency care, promotion of self-care and promotion of normal psychosocial development
8. **The IHP requires:** Parent written consent, medical authorizations, follows procedural guidelines and relevant policies and contains consent for release of information to enhance good lines of communication.
9. **Information from the IHP is referenced in the IEP or 504 plan**. The IHP is a separate document that can stand alone. It also supports the work of the IEP or 504 plan, but contains procedural and medical information prescribed by the doctor for the child.
10. **Make an appointment with the school nurse** to talk about the medical needs of the child. Share documentation from doctors about the care required during the school day. The school nurse can then make the determination about how your child's medical needs can be met or begin the development of an **Individualized Healthcare Plan**.

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