



# Position Statement

## INSULIN ADMINISTRATION AT SCHOOL

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### Statement

The West Virginia Council of School Nurses supports the need for safe administration of insulin at school for students with diabetes. Only a certified school nurse RN, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, parent/guardian, or a trained parent designee (not employed by the board of education) and/or student may legally administer insulin in the school setting. Students may self-administer insulin after demonstrating willingness, understanding and competency to perform the procedure to the school nurses with a licensed prescriber order and parent/guardian permission. Such independence is the ultimate goal and a part of all nursing patient goals.

An individualized student's health care plan (IHCP) is developed by the certified school nurse RN for each student who requires insulin and other diabetes care during the school day. This plan includes information from the licensed prescriber managing the student's diabetes, school nurse, school administrator, teacher or school personnel including bus drivers and aides who have direct educational interest with students, parent/guardian and of course the student. The plan describes training provided and staff designated to perform various functions in the care of the student with diabetes in that school setting. In addition, some, but not all, students diagnosed with diabetes may also require accommodations through either a 504 Plan or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

West Virginia state laws and rules currently provide a safety net to ensure insulin is administered in the school setting by a licensed nurse as indicated in the links below:

- West Virginia Legislative Code, Chapter 30, Article 7: Registered Professional Nurses at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/WVCODE/code.cfm?chap=30&art=7#1>.
- West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses Rule 19CSR10: Standards for Professional Nursing Practice at <http://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/readfile.aspx?DocId=19119&Format=PDF>.
- West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses- Scope and Delegation Booklet called "Criteria for Determining the Scope of Practice for the Licensed Nurses and Guidelines for Determining Acts that May be Delegated or Assigned by Licensed Nurses" at <http://www.wvrnboard.com/images/Scope%20and%20Delegation%20Booklet%206.09.pdf>.

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- West Virginia Legislative Code, Chapter 18, Article 2K: The Diabetes Care Plan Act at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/WVCODE/Code.cfm?chap=18&art=2K#02>. West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2422.7-Standards for Basic and Specialized Health Care Procedures and accompanying Health Care Procedural Manual with specific insulin administration procedures at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/>.

The West Virginia Council of School Nurses supports only the following individuals to administer insulin by injection, pump device, or any other methods in the school setting:

1. Certified school nurses
2. Registered nurses
3. Licensed practical nurse
4. Student, if determined by licensed prescriber, parent/guardian and school nurse to be competent to ensure the safety and welfare of the child.
5. Parent, guardian, or designee who is **NOT** a district employee

### **Summary**

- Health care services must be provided in the school setting to students with chronic conditions, including diabetes, to meet requirements of federal laws and ensure the safety of students. These laws include the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Children with special health care needs have the right to be educated with their peers in the least restrictive environment.
- The Certified School Nurse RN is the only school staff member who has the skills, knowledge base, and statutory authority to fully meet the health care needs of students in the school setting. This includes coordinating, developing, and implementing the student's individualized health care plan, case management, emergency care plan, 504 plan, or individualized education plan.
- In states like California that do not have an adequate ratio between school nurses and students, decisions are being made to meet the health care needs of students using unlicensed, assistive personnel. The scope of tasks which can be delegated varies from state to state. Some state boards of nursing do allow the delegation of insulin administration, with specific training and oversight by a registered school nurse. However, the California Nurse Practice Act does not allow nurses to delegate administration of insulin to unlicensed personnel.



- The most common medication which nurses error in dosage is insulin. **Insulin errors can lead to brain damage and even death. The delegation of insulin administration to unlicensed, assistive school personnel like teachers, aides and secretaries places the life of our most valuable commodity, our children, at risk.** Insulin is a complicated drug with various onset, peak and trough times (action times), dosage based on carbohydrate counts and sliding scales, delivered in subcutaneous injectable doses, measured in syringe-marked in units or via a pre-programmed insulin pump. The individual must possess a complex understanding of nutrition, exercise and the interactions and dynamics of medication.

### References

- Appellate Court Decision Number 07AS04631A (2010). Retrieved September 12, 2013 from California Law website: [http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/mainCaseScreen.cfm?dist=3&doc\\_id=1387513&doc\\_no=C061150](http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/mainCaseScreen.cfm?dist=3&doc_id=1387513&doc_no=C061150).
- California Business and Professional Code: Chapter 6 Sections 2700-2838.4 (Nurse Practice Act). Retrieved September 12, 2013 from the California Law website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.
- California Department of Education: Program Advisory on Medication Administration (2005). Retrieved September 12, 2013 from California Department of Education website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/medication.asp>.
- California Education Code, Section 49423, 49414.5. Retrieved September 12, 2013 from the California Law website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.
- California School Nurse Organization Consensus Statement: Safe Administration of Insulin in California Schools (2006). Retrieved September 12, 2013 from the California School Nurses Organization website: <http://www.csno.org>.
- National Association School Nurses Position Statement School Nurse Role in Care and Management of the Child with Diabetes in the School Setting (2006). Retrieved September 12, 2013 from the National Association of School Nurses website: <http://www.nasn.org>.
- LVN Nursing Practice Act is Business and Professions Code, Chapter 6.5 sections 2859-2895.5. Retrieved September 12, 2013 from the California Law website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=bpc&group=02001-03000&file=2859-2873.6>.