Role of the School Nurse: Did you know?

Objectives:
- Describe current school health initiatives in Alabama
- Explain the evolution of the role of the school nursing in Alabama
- Restate the importance of communication with school nurses on a regular visit with the goal of improving outcomes for school aged children in his/her community

Evolution of the Alabama School Nurse
- 1998 Alabama School Nurse Act
- 1999 Cedar Rapids Community School v. Garrett F.
- 2002 Alabama Board of Nursing Decision
  - Revision of the Administrative Code
    - Section 16-X-.09-6
Evolution of the Alabama School Nurse

- 2003 ABN/SDE Curriculum to teach Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
- 2003 Office of Civil Rights
  - Clarification of LEA responsibility re: school sponsored activities
- 2003 Self-Administration of Asthma Law
- 2003 Annual School Nurse Survey
  - Annual Report of Children’s Health and Nursing Service in Alabama’s Public School Systems

Evolution of the Alabama School Nurse

- 2006 Education Trust Fund Budget
  - Additional 19 millions for school nurses
- 2007 Education Trust Fund Budget
  - Additional 7 million allocated for school nurses
  - Established a school nurse salary matrix
  - Total budget: 33.7 million

Evolution of the Alabama School Nurse

- 2007 Self Administration of Medications for Chronic Illness (Act No. 2007-463)
  - Medication guidelines specified for students diagnosed with a chronic illness
- 2009 Education Trust Fund Budget
  - SDE budget proposes additional 10 million
  - Governor proposes cut of 2 million
Evolution of the Alabama School Nurse

- 2009
  - HB047/SB186 – Amendment to the School Nurse Law (Act 98-672)
  - Funding for LPNs
  - 1:5 RN to LPN nurse ratio
  - “Designated RN” per system
  - Comprehensive health assessment for staffing recommendations to superintendent
  - Salary matrix

Evolution of the Alabama School Nurse

- STIHealth
  - Implementation SY 2009/2010
  - Comprehensive student health record
  - Standardized Codes state-wide
  - Allows nurses to automate:
    - Immunizations
    - Medication Administration
    - Allergies
    - Screenings and Referrals
    - Accidents/Unusual Occurrences
    - Daily Health Logs

Alabama School Health Services: Now

- 1100 School Nurses
  - Registered Nurse’s (ADN, BSN, MSN, DNP/PhD)
  - LPN’s
  - Registered Nurses – Health Occupation Teachers
Alabama School Health Services

Mission Statement:
To foster the growth, development, and educational achievement of Alabama’s students by promoting their health and well being through Alabama School Health Services. We will monitor health status and identify and address the unmet needs of students, families, and school personnel. We will build public and private partnerships to ensure quality, compassionate nursing services that are effective, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the diverse changing needs of students and their communities.

Alabama School Health Services

Vision Statement:
To promote the health and education of students as a result of school nursing practice.

Role of the School Nurse

A specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and lifelong achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

(NASN, 1999)
Role of the School Nurse

- The school nurse is responsible for all students in a given school, district, or region, vacation/occupational setting, environmental camp, field trip, school sanctioned competition, and sporting events.

- School nurses must be fully aware of applicable laws and standards pertaining to delegation of nursing tasks.

Applicable Laws:
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- provides that:
  "No otherwise qualified individual with handicaps in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...."

What are “hidden disabilities”?  
Civil Rights of Students with Hidden Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- physical or mental impairments not readily apparent

- conditions and diseases such as learning disabilities, diabetes, epilepsy, and allergy, low vision, poor hearing, heart disease

- chronic illnesses involving a recurring and long-term disability such as diabetes, seizures, heart disease, kidney and liver disease, high blood pressure, or ulcers
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- protects the rights of persons with handicaps in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance
- protects the rights not only of individuals with visible disabilities but also those with disabilities that may not be apparent or hidden

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- a law that ensures services to children with disabilities throughout the nation
- guarantees Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Alabama Board of Nursing Administrative Code

- Defines regulations and standards of practice for all licensed nurses (Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses)
- Defines “delegation” for school nurses as: “the act of authorizing a competent individual to perform acts supportive to registered nurses or licensed practical nurses in selected situations.”
Delegation

Delegation is a key issue because the licensed nurse retains responsibility for the task that is delegated to someone else—someone else performs the task but the nurse retains the responsibility for the outcome.

School Nurses: Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses

- difference in educational preparation and scope of practice between the RN and LPN
- LPN’s nursing practice requires oversight by the RN
- RN may not be in a position to supervise the LPN’s employment relationship with a school
- LPN is not allowed to practice in a school setting without oversight of the nursing care provided to students
- RN/LPN School Nurse is required to have a license issued by the Alabama Board of Nursing

Specific rules related Delegation

Section 610-X-6-.06

- The school nurse is accountable and responsible for the nursing care delivered to students under the nurse’s jurisdiction.
- Registered nurses or licensed practical nurses who provide nursing care in the school setting through the twelfth grade may delegate specific tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel.
Specific rules related Delegation
Section 610-X-6-.06

- The registered nurse is accountable for determining the tasks that may be safely performed by the unlicensed assistive personnel following appropriate training and demonstration of competency.

- The specific delegated tasks shall not require the exercise of independent nursing judgment or intervention. Specific tasks that require independent nursing judgment or intervention that shall not be delegated include, but are not limited to:

  - Catheterization, clean or sterile;
  - Administration of injectable medications, other than premeasured medication for allergic reactions;
  - Administration of rectal or vaginal medications;
  - Calculation of medication dosages other than measuring a prescribed amount of liquid medication or breaking a scored tablet;
  - Tracheotomy care, including suctioning;
  - Gastric tube insertion, replacement, or feedings;
  - Invasive procedures or techniques;
  - Sterile procedures;
  - Ventilator care; and
  - Receipt of verbal or telephone orders from a licensed prescriber.
Specific rules related Delegation
Section 610-X-6-.06

• The task of providing prescribed oral, topical, ear, eye, nasal, and inhalation medications to a student through twelfth grade may be delegated to unlicensed assistive personnel by the school nurse only when the following conditions are met:
  • The school nurse identifies the appropriate individual(s) to assist in providing prescribed medications.
  • The unlicensed assistive personnel selected by the school nurse shall attend a minimum twelve hour course of instruction that includes a curriculum approved by the Board and demonstrated competency to perform the delegated task.

Specific rules related Delegation
Section 610-X-6-.06

• The school nurse shall provide periodic and regular evaluation and monitoring of the individual performing the delegated tasks.

• The school nurse shall routinely and periodically conduct quality monitoring of the tasks performed by the unlicensed assistive personnel, including, but not limited to:
  • Training;
  • Competency;
  • Documentation;

Specific rules related Delegation
Section 610-X-6-.06

• Error reporting; and

• Methods of identification of the right student, the right task, the right method, and the right quantity at the right time.

• The school nurse delegating the task may, at any time, suspend or withdraw the delegation of specific tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel.
Role of the School Nurse

Key Roles Include:

- Clinician
- Advocate
- Social Service Coordinator
- Health Educator
- Liaison

*The school nurse’s primary role is to support student learning by acting as an advocate and liaison between the home, the school, and the medical community regarding concerns that may affect a student’s ability to learn* (NASN 1999b)

Who Is The School Nurse?

- RN/LPN licensed to practice nursing by the Alabama Board of Nursing
- Approximately 1100 in Alabama
  - 1 nurse/1500 students
- A professional, accountable to practice in accordance with current:
  - Standards of Practice School Nursing (NASN)
  - Alabama Nurse Practice Act
- Pediatric, public health and mental health nursing with strong health promotion, assessment, and referral skills.

Services the School Nurse Provides

- Identifies, assesses, plans, intervenes and evaluates student health concerns.
- Promotes and protects the optimal health status of children
- Provides chronic disease management and education.
- Provides health assessments including health screenings.
- Provides invasive procedures.
Services the School Nurse Provides

- Maintains, evaluates, and interprets cumulative health data to accommodate the individual needs of students.
- Plans and implements Individualized Health Care Plans for students with chronic illnesses.
- Provides health counseling.
- Monitors school safety.
- Serves as health liaison.

Results of the ABN/SDE Survey 2007-08 School Year

- Distributed in November 2008
  - 134 public school systems
    - 67 city/67 county systems
    - 1538 public schools
- 100% response rate by December 21st, 2008
- > 1100 nurses reported to be employed full-time in Alabama’s public school systems

Medication and Procedure Information
(Number represents students)

- Glucose monitoring: 1,587
- Assistance with nebulizers: 852
- Insulin pumps: 422
- Gastric tubes: 359
### Unique Procedures
(Number represents students)

- Urinary catheterization: 168
- Ostomy care: 127
- Vagal nerve stimulators: 66
- Tracheostomy care: 48

### Other Unique Procedures
(Number represents students)

- Monitoring of implanted defibrillator: 33
- Central Line care: 26
  - Medication administration via CL: 7
- Wound care for pressure ulcers: 29
- Ventilators: 9

### Chronic Conditions
(Number represents students)

- Asthma: 35,025
- ADD/ADHD: 18,381
- Obesity: 18,197
- Severe allergies: 7,706
- Mental retardation: 4,534
- Seizure disorder: 4,115
- Mental disorders: 2,299
Chronic Conditions
(Number represents students)

- Cardiac conditions: 2,274
- Autism: 1,892
- Gastrointestinal diseases: 1,873
- Diabetes: 1,849
- Genetic disorders: 1,087
- More than one chronic condition: 4,142

Acute Conditions
(Number represents students)

- First aid: 115,379
- Pain: 54,574 (abdominal pain majority)
- Headaches: 46,253
- Vomiting: 24,145
- Diarrhea: 8,266
- Acute wound care: 6,838

Physician Orders
(Number represents students)

- Self-administered inhalers: 8,809
- Inhalers which require assistance: 5,713
- ADD/ADHD medications: 5,803
- Epi-Pens: 2,481
- Breathing treatments: 2,186
- Insulin: 1,324
Questions ????????