



## POSITION STATEMENT

### Individualized Health Care Plans

#### **History:**

The Individualized Health Care Plan (IHP) is a nursing care plan which has been adopted for a specific student. As the practice of school nursing becomes more complex, the need to communicate health care needs and document outcome(s) of care has become more acute.

#### **Description Of Issue:**

The professional school nurse has the expertise to make a complete assessment of the student to determine what will be done and what results are expected. An IHP helps to ensure that all necessary information, needs, and procedures are considered to maximize the student's participation and performance in school. Since not every student's needs are complex or require daily nursing care, not every student will require an IHP.

#### **Rationale:**

- The use of current care standards to develop the IHP will assure administrators, parents, and staff that the student with health care needs is properly cared for.
- Professional school nurses shall communicate nursing care needs to administrators, staff, students, and parents in a confidential and timely manner.
- The IHP can create a safer process for delegation of nursing care.
- The IHP can be used as input for the interdisciplinary team of the special education student.
- The IHP will serve as legal protection by showing that proper plans and safeguards are in place.

#### **Conclusion:**

It is the position of SNOW that each student with a complex health condition or a need for modification of the school environment due to a health condition should have an IHP. It is also the position of SNOW that the professional school nurse should be responsible for the writing of the IHP.

## **References:**

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