INTRODUCTION

THE NEW MEXICO SCHOOL HEALTH MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico School Health Manual was developed for the purpose of providing recommendations and guidelines to school nurses and other school health personnel for coordinated school health practice and programs throughout the state. NM state mandates that regulate school health practice are included in Section II.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The NM School Health Manual was created in 1995 through the collaborative efforts of two groups: one review committee of the NM School Nurse Association (NMSNA) plus a state review committee comprised of staff from the Department of Health, the Public Education Department and representation from the NMSNA committee. The precedent established by that process has been honored in all subsequent revisions of the manual.

As the health related demands on schools continue to increase, a diverse group of school health and educational professionals contribute to maintaining current information in this manual as guidelines for all New Mexico schools. Revised material represents input from school counselors/social workers, therapists, nutritionists, health educators, physicians as well as a core group of school nurses. Medical information in the manual revisions is reviewed by Department of Health staff and the School Health Medical Officer to assure relevance and appropriateness of that information.

This manual is the result of the commitment of many individuals who are dedicated to one of the future’s greatest resources—children. All who have contributed to this process are honored for their work and dedication.

The NM Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH) in the Department of Health assumes responsibility for editing and maintaining the NM School Health Manual web site. OSAH has a varied staff of nurses, physicians, mental health workers and administrative professionals and assistants to support and promote school health as well as assist with resolving issues around school health. In the Public Education Department the School Health Unit staff is available for consultation on school health issues.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

## I. COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

- Healthier Schools – New Mexico ........................................................... 3
- Implementing the School Health Program........................................... 6
- Health Room Facility ........................................................................... 9
- School Health Staff Evaluation Tools................................................ 11

## II. NEW MEXICO STATUTES, ADMINISTRATIVE CODES, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES RELATING TO SCHOOL HEALTH

- New Mexico Statutes and Administrative Codes for School Personnel. 4
- New Mexico School Health Programs.................................................. 5
- Specific School Health Issues............................................................... 25
- New Mexico Public Health Act............................................................. 27
- New Mexico Children’s Code............................................................... 28
- New Mexico Nurse Practice Act.......................................................... 50
- HIPAA/FERPA Guidelines................................................................... 51

## III. SCREENING, ASSESSMENT, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES

- Screening/Assessment Guidelines...................................................... 3
- School Health Screening..................................................................... 4
- Student Health Assessment................................................................. 17
- Special Education Assessment............................................................. 19
- Child Abuse and Neglect................................................................... 23
- School Sports Physical......................................................................... 27

## IV. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Guidelines for DNR/DNAR Order Policy for the School Setting............. 3
- Guidelines for Students with Special Healthcare Needs........................ 14
- State Programs for Children with Special Healthcare Needs................. 16
- Safety Risks Associated with Health/Physical Conditions.................. 18
- Personal Hygiene Program.................................................................. 19
- Chronic Health Conditions and Syndromes......................................... 20

## V. INDIVIDUALIZED HEALTH CARE PLANS

- Developing and Using Individualized Health Care Plans...................... 3
- Care/Educational Goals........................................................................ 5
- Health Care Plan Samples, Forms and Web Links............................... 6

## VI. MEDICATIONS IN THE SCHOOL

- Medication Administration................................................................. 3
- Integrative Therapies.......................................................................... 12
- Oxygen Storage/Maintenance/Precautions......................................... 14
- Resources for Medication Administration.......................................... 14
- Medication in the Schools: Sample Forms......................................... 14

## VII. PROCEDURE GUIDELINES SPECIALIZED HEALTH SERVICES

- Guidelines for Specialized Health Services........................................ 3
Specific Procedures ............................................................................................................. 5
Skills Checklists for Training and Evaluation ................................................................. 56
Student Form Samples ...................................................................................................... 57

VIII. EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRST AID
Emergency Guidelines ........................................................................................................ 3
School Nurse Emergency Planning .................................................................................. 53
New Mexico Scope of Practice for EMS Personnel ......................................................... 57
Emergency Preparedness .................................................................................................. 58
Student Emergency Medical Authorization Form ............................................................. 59
Safe School Plan ............................................................................................................... 62
Oxygen Maintenance/Storage .......................................................................................... 64
Attachments for AED Policy Tools and Forms ............................................................... 67
Basic Emergency Lifesaving Skills (BELS) Manual ......................................................... 68

IX. IMMUNIZATIONS
New Mexico Immunization Law ....................................................................................... 3
Exemptions from Immunization ....................................................................................... 5
School and Community Based Immunization Clinics ...................................................... 6
Immunization Schedules and Consent Forms ..................................................................... 6
Vaccine Information Statements ....................................................................................... 7
Foreign Vaccine-Related Terms ......................................................................................... 7

X. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL
Notifiable Diseases/Conditions in New Mexico ............................................................... 4
Reportable Communicable Disease Follow-up Algorithm ............................................... 5
New Mexico Department of Health Contact List ............................................................. 5
Public Health Emergency .................................................................................................. 6
Procedures for Control of Communicable Diseases ....................................................... 7
Communicable Diseases Information Sheets .................................................................... 14
School Health and Sexually Transmitted Diseases ......................................................... 69
Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Guidelines .......................................................................... 72

XI. SCHOOL SAFETY
Planning for Safe Schools in New Mexico ....................................................................... 3
Injury and Violence Prevention ......................................................................................... 3
Safe School Environment .................................................................................................. 11
References ......................................................................................................................... 25

XII. SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY
Wellness Policy Legislation and State Rule ....................................................................... 3
NM Public Education Department Wellness Policy Model ................................................. 4
Wellness Policy Resource List .......................................................................................... 5

XIII. DENTAL HEALTH
Structures of the Mouth .................................................................................................... 3
Oral Disease ......................................................................................................................... 8
Visiting the Dental Office ................................................................................................... 10
Diet and Oral Health ......................................................................................................... 11
Brushing and Flossing ........................................................................................................ 13
Fluoride ............................................................................................................................... 18
Dental Sealants .................................................................................. 19
Prevention of Oral Injury.................................................................. 20
Smokeless Tobacco .......................................................................... 22
Selecting Oral Health Products and Services ................................ 25
Dental Emergency First Aid Reference Guide ................................. 27

XIV. MENTAL HEALTH
School’s Role .................................................................................. 3
Developmental Stages .................................................................... 3
Prevention Activities ....................................................................... 5
Common Psychological Problems .................................................. 6
Psychoactive Medications ............................................................... 34
Developing a Youth Suicide Response Plan ...................................... 36

XV. STANDING ORDERS AND GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL NURSE TO TREAT
AND TO PERFORM LABORATORY PROCEDURES
Guidelines for Standing Orders for the School Nurse ...................... 3
Guidelines for the School Nurse to Administer Auto-Injector Epinephrine ........................................................................ 5
Guidelines and Standing Order for Administration of Vaccines by the School Nurse ........................................................................ 6
Standing Order for the School Nurse to Provide Head Lice/Pediculosis Treatment ........................................................................ 8
Guidelines and Standing Order for the School Nurse to Administer Oxygen ............................................................................ 9
Guidelines for Pregnancy Testing by the School Nurse ..................... 11
Guidelines and Standing Order for the School Nurse When Delegating Nursing Actions in the Care of Students With Diabetes ...................... 12

XVI. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT
New Mexico Public Education Department School Health Services Report
Introduction .................................................................................... 3
Report Definitions and Clarifications .............................................. 3
Data Collection Assist Tools ........................................................... 4

XVII. BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS EXPOSURE AND CONTROL
Federal Register ................................................................................ 3
New Mexico Standards ....................................................................... 3
New Mexico Regulation on Bloodborne Pathogens ........................... 4
OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Reference Guide ............................... 5
Sample Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan .................... 7
Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Training Tools ......................... 22
Resources ....................................................................................... 26

XVIII. DELEGATION OF HEALTH SERVICES
Definitions ...................................................................................... 3
Standards of Delegation Practice .................................................... 3
School Nurse’s Responsibility for Quality Care ............................... 4
The Five Rights of Delegation ........................................................ 4
Tools for Delegation Decision-Making ............................................... 5
Safe Care Provision at School ........................................................... 5
Links To Standards and Resources .................................................... 6
  • 16 NMAC 12.2.12(B) Standards of Nursing Practice (1-2-04)
• American Nurses Association and National Council of State Boards of Nursing
• Joint Statement on Delegation
• National Association of State School Nurse Consultants Position
• Delegation of School Health Services
• National Association of School Nurses Position: Delegation
• Manual: Delegation of Care: Overview for the Registered Nurse
• Practicing in the School Setting
• National Council of State Boards of Nursing Position: Delegation Documents
• NCSBN Delegation Decision-making Tree
• NSCBN Delegation Decision Making-Grid