

POLICY: SCS40: Health Care Needs Policy	Issued: May 2019
REVIEW: May 2020	Approved: Sue Holmes (Principal)

HEALTH CARE NEEDS POLICY

PURPOSE

To ensure that Sherbrooke Community School provides appropriate support to students with health care needs.

OBJECTIVE

To explain to Sherbrooke community school parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students with health care needs at school.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students who have been diagnosed with a health care need that may require support, monitoring or medication at school.

POLICY

This policy should be read with Sherbrooke community schools *First Aid, Administration of Medication, Anaphylaxis* and *Asthma* policies

Student health support planning

In order to provide appropriate support to students at Sherbrooke Community school who may need medical care or assistance, a Student Health Support Plan will be prepared by wellbeing officer and first aid officer in consultation with the student, their parents, carers and treating medical practitioners.

Student Health Support plans help our school to assist students with:

- routine health care support needs, such as supervision or provision of medication
- personal care support needs, such as assistance with personal hygiene, continence care, eating and drinking, transfers and positioning, and use of health-related equipment
- emergency care needs, such as predictable emergency first aid associated with asthma, seizure or diabetes management.

Students with complex medical care needs, for example, tracheostomy care, seizure management or tube feeding, must have a Student Health Support Plan which provides for appropriate staff to undertake specific training to meet the student's particular needs.

At enrolment or when a health care need is identified, parents/carers should provide accurate information about the student's condition or health care needs, ideally documented by the student's treating medical/health care practitioner on a Medical Advice Form (or relevant equivalent)

Sherbrooke community School may invite parents and carers to attend a Student Support Group meeting to discuss the contents of a student's Health Support Plan and assistance that the student may need at school or during school activities.

Where necessary, Sherbrooke community school may also request consent from parents and carers to consult with a student's medical practitioners, to assist in preparing the plan and ensure that appropriate school staff understand the student's needs.

Student Health Support Plans will be reviewed:

- when updated information is received from the student's medical practitioner
- when the school, student or parents and carers have concerns with the support being provided to the student
- if there are changes to the support being provided to the student, or
- on an annual basis.

Management of confidential medical information

Confidential medical information provided to Sherbrooke Community school to support a student will be:

- recorded on the student's file
- shared with all relevant staff so that they are able to properly support students diagnosed with medical conditions and respond appropriately if necessary.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Health Care Needs](#)
 - [Health Support Planning Forms](#)
 - [Complex Medical Needs](#)

Evaluation:

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and endorsed by School Council.

EVALUATION:

This policy was last ratified by School Council in and should be reviewed by

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Signed:

..... School Council President

..... Principal

How the school will support the student's health care needs

Student's name:			
Date of birth:		Year level:	
What is the health care need identified by the student's medical/health practitioner?			
Other known health conditions:			
When will the student commence attending school?			
Detail any actions and timelines to enable attendance and any interim provisions:			
Below are some questions that may need to be considered when detailing the support that will be provided for the student's health care needs. These questions should be used as a guide only.			
Support	What needs to be considered?	Strategy – how will the school support the student's health care needs?	Person Responsible for ensuring
Overall Support	Is it necessary to provide the support during the	For example, some medication can be taken at home and does not need to be brought to the school.	
	How can the recommended support be provided in the simplest manner,	For example, students using nebulisers can often learn to use puffers and spacers at school.	
	Who should provide the support?	For example, the principal, should conduct a risk assessment for staff and ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the support fit with assigned staff duties and basic first aid training (see the Department's First Aid Policy www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/ohs/health/firstaid.htm) - If so, can it be accommodated within current resources? - If not, are there additional training modules available 	
	How can the support be provided in a way that	For example, detail the steps taken to ensure that the support provided respects the students, dignity, privacy, comfort and safety and enhances learning.	
Support	What needs to be considered?	Strategy – how will the school support the student's health care needs?	Person Responsible for ensuring

First Aid	Does the medical/health information highlight any individual first aid requirements for the student, other than basic first aid?	<p><i>Discuss and agree on the individual first aid plan with the parent/carer.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that there are sufficient staff trained in basic first aid (see the Department's First Aid Policy www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/ohs/health/firstaid.htm)</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that all relevant school staff are informed about the first aid response for</i></p>	
	Does the school require relevant staff to undertake additional training modules not covered under basic first aid training, such as staff involved with excursions and specific educational programs or activities?	<p><i>Ensure that relevant staff undertake the agreed additional training</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that there are interim provisions in place (whilst awaiting the staff member to receive training), to ensure the student's attendance at school.</i></p>	
Complex medical needs	Does the student have a complex medical care need?	<p><i>Is specific training required by relevant school staff to meet the student's complex medical care need?</i></p> <p><i>The Schoolcare Program enables students with ongoing complex medical needs to have their health care requirements met safely at school. This program is available to students who would be unable to attend school without the procedure being performed by appropriately trained staff. Following the referral process, RCH nurses will attend your school and provide specialist training to nominated school staff.</i></p> <p><i>Further information about the Schoolcare Program may be found in the Schoolcare Program Guidelines and Referral form at:</i> http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/Pages/programsupp.aspx</p>	
Personal Care	Does the medical/health information highlight a predictable need for additional support with daily living	<p><i>Detail how the school will support the student's personal care needs, for example in relation to nose blowing, washing hands, continence care</i></p> <p><i>Would the use of a care and learning plan for toileting or hygiene be appropriate?</i></p>	

Support	What needs to be considered?	Strategy – how will the school support the student's health care needs?	Person Responsible for ensuring the support
Routine Supervision for health-related safety	Does the student require medication to be administered and/or stored at the School?	<p><i>Ensure that the parent/carer is aware of the School's policy on medication management.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that written advice is received, ideally from the student's medical/health practitioner for appropriate storage and administration of the medication – via the Department's Medication Authority Form.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that a medication log or equivalent official medications register is completed by the person administering the taking of the medication.</i></p>	
	Are there any facilities issues that need to be addressed?	<p><i>Ensure the schools first aid room/sick bay and its contents provide the minimum requirements and discuss and agree if other requirements are needed in this room to meet the student's health care needs.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the school provides sufficient facilities to assist a student who requires a wheelchair or other technical support. Discuss this with the parent/carer/student.</i></p>	
	Does the student require assistance by a visiting nurse, physiotherapist, or other health worker?	<p><i>Detail who the worker is, the contact staff member and how, when and where they will provide support.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that the school provides a facility which enables the provision of the health service.</i></p>	
	Who is responsible for management of health records at the school?	<p><i>Ensure that information privacy principles are applied when collecting, using, retaining or disposing of personal or health information.</i></p>	
	Where relevant, what steps have been put in place to support continuity and relevance of curriculum for the student?	<p><i>For example, accommodation in curriculum design and delivery and in assessment for a student in transition between home, hospital and school; for a student attending part-time or episodically.</i></p>	
Other considerations	Are there other considerations relevant for this health support plan?	<p><i>For example, in relation to behaviour, such as special permission to leave group activities as needed; planned, supportive peer environment.</i></p>	

		<p><i>For example, in relation to the environment, such as minimising risks such as allergens or other risk factors.</i></p> <p><i>For example, in relation to communication, is there a need to formally outline the communication channels between the school, family and health/medical practitioner?</i></p> <p><i>For example, is there a need for planned support for siblings/peers?</i></p>	
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