KEEPING KIDS WITH DIABETES SAFE AT SCHOOL

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Mission

To prevent and cure diabetes and improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes

We deliver mission through:

- Research
- Information
- Advocacy
Session Key Points

- Back-to-school considerations
- Safe at School Campaign
- School diabetes care challenges
- Federal and state laws
- Development of 504 and strategies to overcome challenges
- Resources
Goals for School Diabetes Care

• Schools must provide a medically safe environment for students with diabetes.

• Students with diabetes must have the same access to educational opportunities and school-related activities as their peers.

• Schools must work with parent and student to support transition to independence.
School Best Practice Components

- Blood glucose monitoring
- Recognition and treatment of hypo and hyper
- Insulin/medication administration
- Carbohydrate intake/accurate calculation
- Self-management permitted for capable students

Diabetes care should be the same at school as it is at home to ensure smooth, healthy and safe transition from home to school
What is Needed to Achieve

• Availability of trained personnel and/or school nurse

• Access to immediate routine and emergency treatment

• Self-management and self-possession anywhere, anytime for mature and capable students

• Full participation in all school-sponsored activities
We Know That…….

- Diabetes care is 24/7
- Smooth transition from home to school is essential
- Child must have access to equipment, medication, and assistance is essential
- Written care plans are essential, as provided for by federal and state laws
A Word About School Nurses....

ADA supports goal of full time nurses.

However:

• Most schools do **not** have a full-time school nurse.

• Even a full-time school nurse is not at all places at all times.

• ADA supports a safe model that utilizes trained school personnel in the absence of a school nurse.
Safe at School Campaign

All school staff members need to have a basic knowledge of diabetes and know who to contact for help.

The school nurse is primary provider of diabetes care, but other school personnel must be trained to perform diabetes care tasks when the school nurse is not present.

Students should be permitted to provide self-care whenever they are at school or school-related activities.
Safe at School Principles Endorsed by:

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
- American Association of Diabetes Educators
- American Diabetes Association
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Children With Diabetes
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Pediatric Endocrine Society
- Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
- Endocrine Society
Who Is Discriminated Against Because of Diabetes?
Challenges Facing Students with Diabetes

- Failure to have trained staff to assist student with diabetes.
- School’s refusal to administer insulin.
- School’s refusal to administer glucagon.
- No coverage during field trips and extracurricular activities.
Challenges Facing Students with Diabetes

- School’s refusal to permit blood glucose checks outside of the health clinic or office.
- Sending child to “diabetes school.”
- School’s refusal to allow a student to attend the school at all.
Is Your Child With Diabetes Being Discriminated Against?

**Discrimination occurs when students:**

- Don’t get the care they need, OR
- Only get the care they need:
  - By missing out on school activities, or
  - Only when a family member can provide assistance at school
- Learning is compromised.
- Health is compromised.
- Legal rights are compromised.
Federal and State Laws to the Rescue

These laws can help level the playing field and ensure a safe and fair school environment for our children.

Federal laws

• Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
• Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)
• Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)
State Laws and Regulations

- State and local laws and regulations (i.e. Board of Nursing regs) vary regarding who may perform various aspects of diabetes care.
- Often there is no statewide policy. Rather, policy is determined district by district.
- Some states have developed guidelines.
- Some states have passed school diabetes care legislation or changed Board of Nursing regulations.
School Diabetes Care Laws

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
## School Plans for Diabetes Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>What it covers</th>
<th>Who writes it</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMMP</td>
<td>“Doctor’s Orders” – details all aspects of routine and emergency diabetes care.</td>
<td>Health care team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504 Plan</td>
<td>Education plans - details both health care and educated related aids, services, accommodations, and special education services the student may need.</td>
<td>504 team, IEP team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP Team</td>
<td><strong>Resource/Tool for school staff</strong> - how to recognize and treat hypo or hyperglycemia</td>
<td>School nurse</td>
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</tbody>
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**American Diabetes Association**

YOUR RIGHTS. ONE VOICE.™
Back-To-School Strategies

- Approach in spirit of cooperation and work with the school team.
- Be realistic and reasonable!
- Communication is paramount.
- Provide supplies, snacks, quick-acting form of glucose.
- Encourage your child to wear a medical ID jewelry.
Working through disagreement: ADA Legal Advocacy Strategies

EDUCATION. Negotiation. Litigation. Legislation.

- **Educate** school personnel about diabetes and legal obligations.
- **Negotiate** using resources such as NDEP school guide, ADA resources, and medical device trainers.
- **Litigate** if necessary – OCR, due process, state court, federal court.
- **Legislate** if all else fails and clear legal barriers exist.
Education Resources

- American Diabetes Association Position Statement: Care of Children with Diabetes in the School and Day Care Setting
- ADA School Discrimination Packet
- Training modules for school personnel
- 1-800-DIABETES

www.diabetes.org/safeatschool
Education & Training Resources:

- NDEP School Guide
- ADA Position Statement
- Diabetes Care Tasks at School

Helping Administer to the Needs of the Student with Diabetes in School
Post-Secondary Education

diabetes.org/assets/pdfs/schools/going-to-college-with-diabetes.pdf
We’re here to help you!

CAUTION: Keep in mind – especially if you are really frustrated:

- Most disagreements with schools can be resolved as you *educate* and *negotiate* with school staff.

- If you get to the point that you feel litigation or legislation is the only solution, please request assistance from an American Diabetes Association Legal advocate before taking legal action:
  1-800-DIABETES
Next Steps......

• Read the information on www.diabetes.org/safeatschool about legal rights and written plans.

• Call us at 1-800-DIABETES if you need help or have questions.

• Work with your child’s health care provider to develop or update your child’s DMMP.

• Schedule a meeting with the school nurse and/or principal to review DMMP.

• Help identify training resources.

• Initiate the 504/IEP process or update your child’s plan by contacting school’s 504/IEP coordinator.
Become a Diabetes Advocate

Sign up at the American Diabetes Association Action Action Center
• diabetes.org/takeaction

Receive updates on advocacy issues in:
– the U.S. Congress
– your state legislature
– Association’s Safe at School campaign
THANK YOU!!!
QUESTIONS?

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