

School Health Nurse Consultant Technical Assistance Summary August 2019

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year, we hope you had an enjoyable summer!

2019 Outstanding State School Nurse Consultant Achievement Award!

We would like to congratulate Ann Nichols for receiving this award. The award is presented annually by the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC) to a State School Nurse Consultant who has demonstrated excellence in the role. Ann was recognized for her leadership, knowledge, strength of character, collaboration skills and advocacy for school nursing practice. She was formally recognized on June 26 at the NASSNC Summer Meeting in Denver, CO. Congratulations, Ann!

100 Distinguished Public Health Nurses

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of North Carolina Public Health Nursing, 100 Public Health Nurses demonstrating Innovation, Collaboration, Community Centered Care, or Professionalism were provided this distinction. Award winners were selected by a review committee of eight PHN peers. Please congratulate the following school nurses, supervisors and consultants included among the 100 Distinguished Public Health Nurses! Laura Bryant, Wendy Harsch, Sarah Hunt, Allice Luttman, Dallas Picard, Janis Surratt, Jennifer Dennis and Maria Turnley, Ann Nichols and Lucy Heffelfinger.

NC Data Project Awarded Research Funds

The North Carolina Annual School Health Services Report Surveys provide an avenue for local program review and evaluation while documenting important information for interested stakeholders regarding school nursing services. The National Association of School Nurses recently requested proposals for research studies to look at currently existing data sets. A North Carolina project was submitted and awarded a research grant based on your submitted data. The study will look at North Carolina school nurse factors that are associated with case management services in schools and with medication accuracy. Dr. Nakia Best and Ann Nichols submitted the awarded proposal.



Every Child Accountability & Tracking System (ECATS)

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has been in the process of developing a web-based solution that provides an early warning system for identifying students at risk, captures all general education intervention activities, documents students' individual education plans (IEP) and helps staff with Medicaid billing. This system is called Every Child Accountability & Tracking System (ECATS) and will replace the Comprehensive Exceptional Children Accountability System (CECAS). For more information, visit <https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/ecats> or contact your EC director.

Epinephrine Auto-Injector Programs and Shortage

This is the annual reminder that the training for [§ 115C-375.2A. School supply of epinephrine auto-injectors](#) includes an annual re-training requirement. These requirements are applicable to both charter and LEA schools. In addition, the expiration dates for the injectors should be noted. The Food Allergy Research & Education's (FARE) emergency care plan has been revised to include patient instructions for epinephrine auto-injectors. You can download the care plan here: [FARE: Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan](#)

The year-long **shortage** continues, and we have provided guidance as available. The shortage effects not only 'free' products but exists everywhere. The EpiPen4Schools program is continuing, however there may be delays in filling orders. The expiration dates for 0.3mg Auto injectors has been extended by four months. The extension does not include the EpiPen Jr 0.15mg, Epinephrine injections or USP

School Health Nurse Consultant Technical Assistance Summary August 2019

Auto-injectors 0.15mg products. More information is available at EpiPen.com and on the [FDA's website](#).

Each district needs to discuss the expected response to an apparent anaphylactic reaction in an undiagnosed person, ensuring that all parties understand the expected response and call 911. Continue to document all efforts related to obtaining a new product or product supply, if applicable.

Midazolam (Nayzilam)

Midazolam (Nayzilam) was approved for use in some types of seizures in children 12 and older by the FDA on May 17th. Midazolam (Nayzilam) is the same medication as Versed which is manufactured by a competitor. If your medication policy references 'off label' use that issue is now resolved for this medication. Until it is provided to the school in a dose managed manner (packaged for this use as a nasal spray) the issues related to use of multidose containers and preparation by unlicensed staff remain and should be considered in delegation decisions.



Immunization Reporting Requirement

Every year, all schools (i.e. traditional and public charter as well as independent schools) are required to report on the immunization status of their kindergarten and 7th grade students, according to [G. S. 130A-155\(c\)](#). The purpose of these reports is to ensure that all children enrolled in North Carolina

schools are protected against vaccine-preventable disease and to determine the number of children who meet state immunization requirements. All schools with a kindergarten or 7th grade MUST submit their annual reports online. Separate reports are to be submitted for each school.

Health Assessments and Immunizations

State law [§ 130A-440](#) requires that every child entering public schools for the first time in North Carolina receive a health assessment. The assessment must occur no earlier than the 12-month period prior to entering school. For current health assessment forms [click here](#). The **Health Assessment and Immunization Report** will be due November 1, 2019. Report links will be included in the annual reminder memo later this month.

****Because there is the potential for there to be a student new to North Carolina in any school – every public school as well as all public charter schools in every district must complete a compliance report even if there are no students to report on.**** Independent or private schools do not report on the Health Assessment portion of the report but once the online report is begun, and demographic data is entered, they will be redirected to the required immunization portion of the report.

Medicaid Reimbursement for School Nursing Services

Many of you are aware that last year a State Plan Amendment was passed that allows billing for defined school nursing services that appear on a formal Nursing Plan of Care/Individual Healthcare Plan. Previously services had to appear on a student's Individual Education Plan. Medicaid for School Nursing Services is a 'carve out' from regular Medicaid with its own requirements and billing can only be done by LEA and charter schools. If your district bills for other related service providers like PT and OT then the actual billing process is the same and should be included in that established process. The required components for nursing are described on resources that are available [here](#).

School Health Nurse Consultant Technical Assistance Summary August 2019

It is advisable to always include the minutes of time used when an approved nursing service is delivered and documented since this is the basis for the fee billed. The Service Documentation Module in the new ECATS system is the planned method for documentation of services provided. Questions on nursing requirements may be directed to your regional consultant. Questions on billing processes should be directed to your LEA administrator that oversees billing for other related service providers. Questions on ECATS should be directed to your EC director.

Safety Tips Regarding Cells Phones and Radiation

Media articles and various organizations have recently cautioned about possible effects of non-ionizing radiation and devices like cell phones. Your school or families may ask you for input or information regarding this subject. This article available [here](#), on the American Academy of Pediatrics web page gives a good overview of the related background and current status of knowledge.



Year Two, Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement through Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Schools

We are now in the second year of the five-year grant which ends June 29, 2023. While year one was dedicated to revision of resources for implementation and growth in school nurse case management

of chronic health conditions, year two will see the roll out of those materials. The grant-identified target counties will pilot the resources, however they will be available for use by all North Carolina school districts. For more information please contact your regional consultant.



2019-2020 School Nurse Funding Initiative / Program 351 Workplans

The workplan and other related documents for use by SNFI and Program 351 nurses are available at

<http://childreneyouth.schoolnurse.sgizmo.com/s3/>. **Workplans are due no later than September 15, 2019.** **As a reminder, please

be sure to submit all staff change forms *within four days* of a new SNFI/351 vacancy or hire.

Annual School Health Services Reports

[2017-2018](#) End of Year Report brochures have been published. This data is located at the [Women & Children's Health Data and Publications](#) page. A variety of state and county level data is available via the above 'data and publication' link. We hope you will take some time to look at the available data and see how this information might be useful in assessing and improving the quality of your school health program. Be sure to bookmark this page and refer to it often. Worksheets and definitions for the 2019-20 report will be available after August 26, 2019.

School Nurse Association of North Carolina (SNANC) Grant Initiative

SNANC offers two grants per year in the amount of up to \$500 to qualifying applicants. These grants would advance the profession of school nursing in the areas of health promotion/education, disease prevention, and profession enhancing research. Qualifying applicants will be SNANC members who submit proposals by one of two biannual deadlines on November 15 and March 15. Proposals will be reviewed by the Grant Committee and one grant will be awarded in January and the second in June. Proposals not awarded grants at the November deadline will automatically be considered for the March deadline. Please go to the [SNANC Website](#) for application.

School Health Nurse Consultant Technical Assistance Summary August 2019



NC Medicaid and Health Choice Outreach

The start of the school year is always a good time to note uninsured families that might be eligible for NC Medicaid and Health Choice (the Children's Health Insurance Program). Children may qualify for health care coverage through [Medicaid](#) or [Health Choice](#)-- both offer free or low cost health insurance. School nurses are valuable partners in outreach efforts along with Health Check Coordinators at local health departments or Community Care of NC Networks. Income guidelines and educational brochures are available at <https://publichealth.nc.gov/wch/families/hchcoutreach.htm>



36th Annual School Nurse Conference – Stand up, Speak Out for Student Safety

The conference will be held at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on December 5-6, 2019. Registration will be open September 1st and the cost of registration includes a breakfast and lunch, conference materials, break service, continuing education credit and the opportunity to learn from national, state and local experts, discover cutting-edge resources and network with professionals from a variety of backgrounds. You will be required to select your breakout sessions (3) upon registration. **We encourage you to register early** to help ensure that you get your preferred sessions. **Fee:** \$200. The conference webpage is available [here](#).**

School Nurse Orientation Modules

The target audience for this online course includes all new school nurses and is a required component for School Nurse Funding Initiative (SNFI) and Program 351 school nurse orientation. The orientation course is an introduction and prerequisite to future offerings of School Nurse Roles and Responsibilities. To register please contact your Regional School Health Consultant. 5.0 contact hours will be awarded upon completion of all modules.

School Nurse Roles and Responsibilities

This is an interactive face-to-face session that is a follow up to the above online modules and another required workshop for SNFI and Program 351 nurses. There are two workshops planned for this fall. Contact hours are provided.

- October 22 – Wayne County Public Schools Central Office.
- October 29th – MAHEC, Asheville. Registration information will be available September 22.

School Nurse Certification Exam

Fall Testing Window: October 31-November 13. Registration opens August 8, 2019 and closes October 11, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. EST. More information and registration are available [here](#). The National Board for Certification of School Nurses also has a list of suggested resources and information about exam preparation [here](#).

School Nurse Certification Exam On-Line Review Course

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) is offering an online review for nurses preparing to take the National School Nurse Certification Exam. Courses begin August 10, September 7 and October 5. This eight-week, self-paced certification examination review covers the content areas included within the School Nurse Certification Exam. For more information please click [here](#).

School Health Nurse Consultant Technical Assistance Summary August 2019

School Nurse Certification Exam In-Person Review Course

Northwest Area Health Education Center is offering a two-day, in-person workshop to accommodate learners who prefer a face-to-face learning experience. This session is planned for October 17-18, 2019. The School Nurse Certification: Exam Preparation Workshop covers the content areas included in the exam. It also provides the participant with skills and strategies that are useful for taking any exam, a manual and resources including relevant internet sites, and is meant as a launching point for the school nurse to continue self-study or group study toward successfully passing the NBCSN exam. [Register for Event](#)

Adverse Childhood Experiences Southeastern Summit 2019

November 1-3, 2019, Asheville, NC. Local, regional, and national speakers will focus on evidence-based practices that prevent and address the intergenerational transmission of ACEs. Multiple breakout sessions will encourage and promote interprofessional networking. Attendees will return home with tools and ideas for addressing ACEs and building resilience within their own communities. Mark your calendar and plan to be a part of this regional summit! More information available [here](#).

Project Echo

September 11, 2019. This video teleconferencing series, guided by experts, takes place over eight bi-weekly modules (one-hour each) and will cover topics specific to school nurses, including: Diabetes Management in Schools, Pediatric Seizure Disorders, Hypertension (new pediatric guidelines), Asthma, Mental Health (depression/suicide prevention), Dermatology: Safe at School? When to Refer, Return to Learn: Concussion Management, Motivational Interviewing (MI). School Nurse participants will be asked to present a real-world case to faculty and peers for direct feedback. Nurses will be awarded CNE credit per session. <https://mahec.net/event/59674>

Regional Updates

Central Region

October 31, 2019 from 8:00 a.m.-1 p.m. Division of Public Health
Building 3, Eagle Room
5605 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

NE Region

October 24, 2019 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Beaufort County Schools -Ed Tech Center
820 Bridge Street, Washington, NC 27889
(Please enter on North Pierce Street)

NW Region Lead

October 25, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.
The Gathering Place/Winston-Salem Forsyth
County Schools
601 N. Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Ann Nichols MSN, RN, NCSN
N.C. State School Health Nurse Consultant
ann.nichols@dhhs.nc.gov

SE Region

October 30th, 2019 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Duplin County Extension
Lois G. Britt Agricultural Building
165 Agricultural Drive, Kenansville, NC 28349

SW Region

October 23, 2019 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Sign-in at 9:30 a.m.)
Cabarrus Health Alliance
300 Mooresville Road, Kannapolis, NC 28081

West Region

October 4, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. MAHEC - Blue Ridge A
121 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Jenifer Simone, BSN, RN, NCSN
Central Region School Health Nurse
Consultant
jenifer.simone@dhhs.nc.gov