Planning for Emergencies in Schools

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Source: School Nurse Emergency Medical Services for Children Program

Role of Nurse in Planning

- Leader
- Initiator
- Evaluator
- Manager
- Coordinator
- Counselor
- Developer

Role of Nurse in Planning (continued)

- Liaison
  - Parent
  - Health care provider
  - School administration
  - Classroom teachers

Special Considerations

- Cultural diversity
- Age and developmental level of students
- Health care access
- EMS response

Finding the Parameters

- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- How do you respond?

Assessing Your School

- Written policies
- Duties assigned
- Plan to initiate care
- Transportation
- Supplies/equipment
- Injury reports
- Follow up

Assessing Community Response

- Coordination of EMS
- Response time
- Level of responders
- EMS protocols
- Hospitals

EMS Response

- Bystanders/Good Samaritan
- Medical first responders
- EMT
- Paramedic
- ER nurse
- ER physician

OSHA Requirements

- Universal precautions
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Personal protective equipment
- Exposure incident
- Follow up medical evaluation

Emergency Decisions

- Emergent
- Urgent
- Non-urgent

Telephone Triage

- Rely on hearing
- Work without other senses
- Rely on caller for critical information
- Effectively use verbal communications
- Decisions based on protocols

Transport

- Based on condition of patient
- Options available
  - EMS ground
  - EMS air
  - Parent/guardian
  - Other responsible adult
  - School staff

Documentation

- Comprehensive and consistent
- Ease and efficiency of time
- Record for continuity of care
- Legal protection
- Data collection valuable for planning

SOAP Documentation

- Subjective
- Objective
- Assessment
- Plan

SOAP Documentation

- Student general information
- SOAP of current incident
- Parent notification information
- Past medical history
- Referral for care and transport information
- Follow up

Daily Logs

- Inadequate for documentation of care
- Student confidentiality
- Difficulty to retrieve information
- Valuable if data categorized for statistics
- Valuable if used to improve/ analyze service

Special Issues

- Refusal of care
  - Parent
  - Student
  - Others
- Religious objections
- Do-not-resuscitate orders

Prevention

- Safety policies
- Organized interventions
- Reduce risks
- Data analysis
- Use of protective equipment