
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR MOBILITY AND CAST CARE GUIDELINES

Purpose:

Students with temporary or permanent medical devices, including casts, will be ensured safe access to the school campus while using mobility devices.

Additional Authority:

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), Nevada State Board of Nursing, Nevada Nurse Practice Act, Regulation and Advisory Opinion, Clark County School District Regulation 5150, National Association of s, First Aid and Emergency Guidelines for School Personnel (PUB)

Scope:

Health Services Director III/Chief Nurse, Health Services Director I, Health Services Coordinator, , Specialized Procedure Nurse (SPN), Contracted Agency Nurse, First Aid Safety Assistant (FASAs), Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAPs)

Responsible Party:

Health Services Director III/Chief Nurse

Distribution:

Health Services Director III/Chief Nurse, Health Services Director I, Health Services Coordinator, , Specialized Procedure Nurse, Contracted Agency Nurse, First Aid Safety Assistant, Unlicensed Assistive Personnel, Health Services Department Secretarial Staff

POLICY

1.0 Policy Statement

The use of medical mobility devices on a school campus can be challenging for some students, classmates and staff. A mobility device could pose a safety risk if not used properly. Parents/guardians of students in need of mobility devices must provide proper documentation from a Licensed Health Care Provider (LHCP) regarding medical mobility devices to be used in a school setting. In order for a student to return to school following casting, the student must be released to return to school by a licensed healthcare provider (LHCP).

- 1.1 Devices include but are not limited to: canes, wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, standers, scooters and walking boots.
- 1.2 The School Nurse will assist school staff with the referral process for students who may need a medical device in school.
- 1.3 The School Nurse shall request parent/guardian provide medical documentation regarding mobility devices, cast care and accommodations, indicating how long the student will be in a cast and activity restrictions at school.

2.0 Guidelines

- 2.1 Medical documentation from the LHCP is recommended before the student can return to school. These include:
 - 2.1.1 Indication of a mobility device.
 - 2.1.2 Duration of mobility restrictions and need for mobility equipment.
 - 2.1.3 Duration of restricted physical activity.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the parents/guardians communicate with the School Nurse regarding health status.
 - 2.2.1 The School Nurse will review accommodations required for access to education and consult the site administrator, if needed.
 - 2.2.2 A Return to School Instructions Form (HS), or a Physical Activity Medical Report Form (CCF), may be utilized for that purpose.
 - 2.2.3 Any student in school with a cast and/or the need for medical mobility devices such as crutches, wheelchair, scooter or

orthopedic boots, must have Licensed Healthcare Provider (LHCP) documentation.

2.2.4 Additionally, weight bearing status may be indicated on Return to School Instructions (HS).

2.3 The School Nurse will issue an individualized health care plan or medical alert (HS) to teachers/staff.

2.4 Consider the need to consult for OT/PT services if the student is receiving special education services.

2.5 Recommended evacuation planning for adult assistance needs can be included in the medical alert and the HS 140, Medical Response Plan, as appropriate.

3.0 Accommodations for Mobility Device Use/Casts

3.1 The School Nurse will review accommodations required for access to transportation, or to promote mobility on campus, so the student may engage in academic instruction and other educational or extracurricular activities.

3.2 Consult the site administrator for assistance with addressing barriers, if needed.

3.3 Students with medical mobility device(s) and/or casts, must be ensured clear pathways in school.

3.3.1 Review ease of access to hallways, elevators, ramps, stairwells and classrooms.

3.3.2 Ensure students are aware of disabled-accessible alternative routes.

3.4 Mobility device to assist with leg, ankle, or foot problems requiring use of canes, crutches, walkers:

3.4.1 Non-slip orthopedic shoes may be worn during school hours.

3.4.2 Extra time can be allowed in between classes by giving an early release pass.

3.4.3 Allow students to use the elevator, as applicable.

3.4.4 The teacher/student can arrange another person carrying a backpack if the student is unable to because of the mobility device.

3.5 Mobility equipment such as scooters, wheelchairs:

3.5.1 Adult supervision during school time is recommended.

3.5.2 Only one person at a time should be sitting in a wheelchair.

3.5.3 Students may only be assisted with wheelchairs by adult faculty.

Students may not push other students in wheelchairs.

4.0 Procedural Steps

4.1 Cast Care

ESSENTIAL STEPS	KEYPOINTS - PRECAUTIONS
1. Review LHCP documentation	
2. Ask the student to describe the problem or discomfort, including onset and duration.	
3. Assess the affected site for signs and symptoms of pain, numbness, swelling, burning under the cast or red, cracked skin around the cast.	Notify parent/guardian of signs of pain, numbness, swelling, burning under the cast or red, cracked skin around the cast.

4. Elevate/rest the affected area to help with circulation for the involved extremity.	This helps with circulation for the involved extremity.
5. Follow LHCP orders for medication administration, if prescribed for pain management.	If a student has significant pain, the student should go home.
6. Notify parent/guardian by telephone, if needed.	

5.0 Documentation Required

- 5.1 Document in the electronic medical record (EMR) and the Medicaid billing system, as appropriate.

6.0 References, Sources, Bibliography

- 6.1 Beverly Hills Unified School District (n.d.) Re-admittance of a student wearing braces, casts, or using crutches. Retrieved from https://www.bhusd.org/pdf/enrollment/Medical-Cast_Crutch_WheelchairPlan.pdf
- 6.2 The Nemours Foundation (Nov. 2019). Limited Mobility Factsheet (for Schools). Retrieved from <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/mobility-factsheet.html?view=ptr&WT.ac=p-ptr>
- 6.3 Benet Academy (Jan. 2016). Assistive Mobility Devices (crutches, immobilizers, casts etc) Retrieved from <https://www.benet.org>

- 6.4 Clairton City School District (Feb. 2020). Use of Crutches, Walkers, or Wheelchair in School, Retrieved from <https://www.ccsdbears.org/Content2/102>
- 6.5 Middleborough Public Schools (Dec. 2012). Middleborough Public Schools Health Services Crutch/Wheelchair/Transportation Protocol. Retrieved from <https://www.middleboro.k12.ma.us>
- 6.6 Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego (n.d.). Rady Children's Specialists, Orthopedics and Scoliosis Cast Care Instructions. Retrieved from <https://www.rchsd.org/programs-services/orthopedics-scoliosis/patient-and-parent-education/cast-care-instructions/>
- 6.7 Mayo Clinic Staff (2018). Cast care: Do's and don'ts -Mayo Clinic, Healthy Lifestyle Children's Health. Retrieved from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/childrens-health/in-depth/cast-care/art-20047159>
- 6.8 Watson, Sue (2019). Tips for working with students in wheelchairs. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com>

7.0 Authorization

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