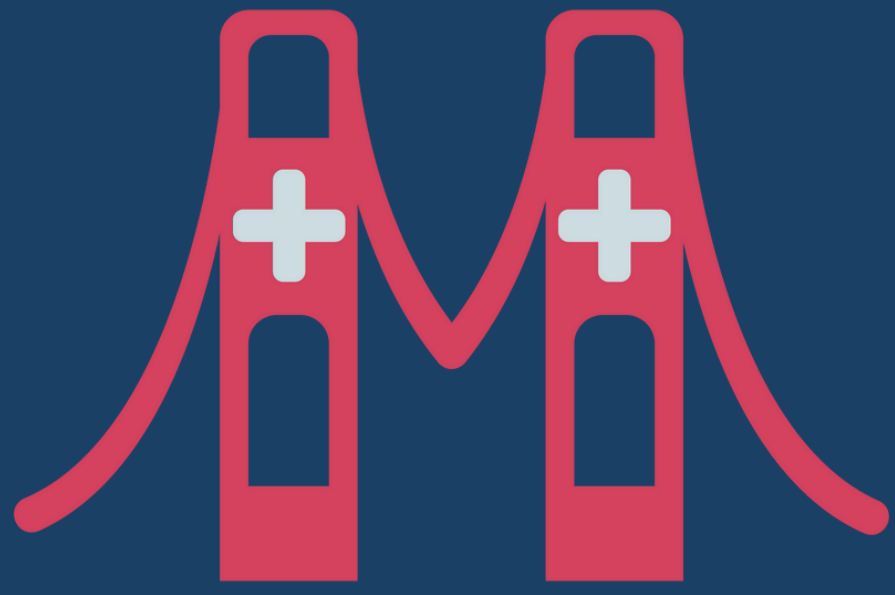


**SIMPLE WAYS PROVIDERS
CAN COLLABORATE WITH**



SCHOOL NURSES

**School Nurses are part of
the Child Healthcare Team**



Do you have a school nurse?

Ask the parent if their child's school has a school nurse. Recommend the parent/guardian contact their school nurse to identify the full scope of services, supports and resources for their child/student while at school.



Medical Orders and Medications

The Michigan School Code requires medical orders signed by both the medical provider and parent/guardian to administer medication and/or medical treatments during the school day.² Provide parent/guardian signed medical orders and prescription (if necessary) for any medications needed to be kept at school such as inhalers, epi-pen, over-the-counter, rescue medications, etc. The parent/guardian will provide the medical orders and medications to the school nurse.

Communication



Ask the parent/guardian to sign a Release of Information so the school nurse and medical provider can communicate as needed throughout the school year, especially for patients with complex medical conditions or chronic health conditions.

Did you know?

- School nursing practice in Michigan is guided by the Michigan School Code (legislates what must be done in schools) and the Michigan Public Health Code (legislates how medical professions may practice in Michigan).
- Any school staff providing student-specific medical support must be trained by a Registered Nurse and not the parent.
- If the school district does not employ a school nurse the ordering physician delegates and, therefore must supervise the act of medication administration.³
- School nurses are leaders who use evidenced- based immunization strategies and where they are present, immunization exemption rates are lower.⁴
- School nurses identify, make referrals, and support students with behavioral health concerns through care coordination, collaboration with both internal and external providers, and case management.

What if there is not a signed release?

HIPAA allows the health care provider to contact the school nurse for treatment purposes without the consent of the parent/guardian. The school nurse may also contact the physician to clarify the medical orders or in the event of a health or safety emergency.¹



1 <https://www.networkforphl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Data-Privacy-in-School-Nursing-Navigating-the-Complex-Landscape-of-Data-Privacy-Laws-Part-1-1.pdf>
<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/faq/517/does-hipaa-allow-a-health-care-provider-to-disclose-information-to-a-school-nurse/index.html>

2 [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(wkeprcrla3dmxw3diarqdrwa\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=mcl-380-1178](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(wkeprcrla3dmxw3diarqdrwa))/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=mcl-380-1178)
3 <https://www.ag.state.mi.us/opinion/datafiles/1980s/op05679.htm>
4 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1059840519847730>