

STUDENT HEALTH EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION & INFORMED CONSENT POLICY

RATIONALE

In many countries of the world, government health ministries and education ministries work separately with different goals. However, the evidence is growing from across the world that health and education are inextricably linked to each other. It is now clear that education has the power to improve not only economic prosperity in a country, but that it has a major effect on health outcomes.

It has been known for over 100 years that providing healthy food and social support at school is one method of improving attendance and enabling young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to benefit from the education provided. Healthy young people who attend school tend to learn better and good education leads to healthier people.

STUDENT HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Promoting School

The HPS is a whole-school approach to enhancing both the health and educational outcomes of children and adolescents through learning and teaching experiences initiated in the school.

It is sometimes has different names in various regions, e.g., School Health Education, Comprehensive School Health, Coordinated School Health, etc.

Common to all of the frameworks are the six components:

- **Healthy School Policies-** These are clearly defined practices that promote health and wellbeing. Many policies promote health and well-being e.g., policies that enable healthy food practices to occur at school; policies which discourage bullying.
- **The School's Physical Environment-** The physical environment refers to the buildings, grounds and equipment in and surrounding the school such as: the building design and location; the provision of natural light and adequate shade; the creation of space for physical activity and facilities for learning and healthy eating.
- ✓ **The School's Social Environment-** The social environment of the school is a combination of the quality of the relationships among and between staff and students. It is influenced by the relationships with parents and the wider community. It is about building quality connections among and between all the key stakeholders in a school community.
- ✓ **Individual Health Skills and Action Competencies-** This refers to both the formal and informal curriculum and associated activities, where students gain age-related knowledge, understandings, skills and experiences, which enable them to build competencies in taking action to improve the health and well-being of themselves and others in their community and that enhances their learning outcomes.
- ✓ **Community Links-** Community links are the connections between the school and the students' families, plus the connection between the school and key local groups and individuals. Appropriate consultation and participation with these stakeholders enhances the health promoting school and provides students and staff with a context and support for their actions.

Mental and Emotional Health

Mental health initiatives in schools seek to build the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of students to enable them to achieve education and health goals and to interact with their peers, teachers, family and community in ways that are respectful and just.

Hygiene

There is a scientific evidence about the health benefits for children and adolescents of hand washing, drinking clean water and using proper sewage system.

The evidence indicates that in developing countries well designed and implemented initiatives, which have included a whole-school approach involving the physical environment, links with the health sector, and which have suitable policies and curriculum, have increased school attendance rates.

Healthy Eating And Nutrition

Initiatives and programmes that follow evidence-based teaching practices and a whole- school approach have been shown to regularly increase student knowledge about food and diet.

Those initiatives which did achieve some behavioural changes had some or all of the following features:

- ✓ a whole-school approach
- ✓ links with parents and food preparation at home
- ✓ consistency between the taught curriculum and food availability in the school

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

Communication with Students

- All students are to be treated fairly and with respect. If you expect them to respect you, then you have to respect them.
- You need to have an open-door policy with all of your students. Let them know that they can trust you. Allow them the opportunity to come in, talk to you, ask you questions, and voice their concerns and opinions.
- It is our responsibility to provide students with optimal opportunities to learn. We need to create an atmosphere that fosters learning and enhances a student's ability to do such.
- All students regardless of race, color, or gender should be given equal opportunities and fair treatment by all school community.
- All students should be encouraged to ask questions, and all teachers need to provide an accurate of response as possible.
- All teachers should have every student's best interest in mind.

INFORMED CONSENT

The primary purpose of the informed consent process is to ensure that the p, or the patient's representative, is provided information necessary to enable him/her to evaluate a proposed procedure before agreeing to the procedure. The patients' rights shall be considered throughout the informed consent process in accordance with the Patient's Rights Policy.

Informed consent is a person's agreement to allow something to happen, made with full knowledge of the risks involved and the alternatives. For a patient, this is a patient's knowing choice about a medical treatment or procedure, made after a physician or other designated LP discloses whatever information a reasonable provider in the medical community would give to a patient regarding the risks involved in the proposed treatment or procedure.

A complete informed consent process includes a discussion of the following elements:

- ✓ The nature of the proposed care, treatment, services, medications, interventions, or procedures;
- ✓ Potential benefits, risks, or side effects, including potential problems that might occur during recuperation;

- ✓ The likelihood of achieving goals
- ✓ The range of treatment alternatives
- ✓ The relevant risks, benefits, and side effects related to alternatives
- ✓ Questions from the patient or authorized representative
- ✓ Documentation of the items listed above must be included in the patient's medical record prior to the performance of the procedure.

Informed consent must be obtained, and documentation of informed consent must be included in the patient's medical record, prior to the performance of the procedure, except in the case of emergency.

When Informed Consent is required

Informed consent is required for all invasive procedures. An invasive procedure is a procedure involving puncture or incision of the skin, or insertion of an instrument or foreign material into the body, including, but not limited to, intravenous therapy, intramuscular or subcutaneous injections & laceration suturing.

Emergency Consent is implied in a life-threatening emergency situation. Informed consent to medical treatment or procedure shall be implied when an emergency exists and if there has been no refusal of consent by a person authorized and empowered to consent and there is no one immediately available who is authorized, empowered, willing and capacitated to consent. Emergency is defined as a situation wherein, in competent medical judgment, the medical treatment or procedures are immediately or imminently necessary and any delay occasioned by an attempt to obtain consent would reasonably jeopardize the life, health or limb of the person affected, or would reasonably result in disfigurement or impairment of faculties.

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Reviewed by: _____

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