MABE: Diabetes Care Services Guidelines for Public Schools

House Bill 771/ Annotated Code of MD- Education Article § 7-426.4

Synopsis: This legislation passed in 2016, requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), to establish guidelines for public schools regarding the administration of health care services to students with diabetes and provide specified technical assistance. The original bill was amended to ensure that the registered nurses would remain the case managers of diabetes care and make decisions about delegation and training of school staff based on the individual needs of each student.

History- Why Were We Opposed to the Original Bill:

In addition to imposing an unfunded mandate, this bill could have negatively impacted student safety. Senate Bill 672 required school systems to recruit employees interested in being trained diabetes provider and provide training for these employees to assume all of the responsibilities related to diabetes care. Health Services professionals in schools raised serious objections to these requirements because diabetes care is complex and individualized. Recruitment of volunteers, training, supervision and maintenance of skills presented significant challenges for school systems.

The Maryland Nurse Practice Act requires that the decision to delegate care is the responsibility of the registered nurse. In the State of Maryland, even in counties where there is not a nurse in every school, registered nurses were already providing this case management.

What will the Guidelines Contain?

- Procedures for treating and administering medication to control diabetic symptoms
- Procedures for monitoring blood glucose and ketone levels
- A description of parental or caregiver responsibilities in relation to the care of their child with diabetes, including:
    - Notifying a school of a child's diabetes diagnosis;
    - Providing appropriate medication, delivery devices, and medical condition indication devices, including medic alert bracelets or necklaces;
    - Providing parental consent for the administration of medications; and
    - Providing an emergency card for medical emergencies with up–to–date contact names and telephone numbers;

- A description of school responsibilities in relation to the care of a student with diabetes, including:
    - Instruction by the school nurse for school health services personnel, teachers, coaches, transportation personnel, and other appropriate school personnel, as determined by the school nurse, including instruction on:
        - Recognizing the symptoms of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia and the appropriate actions to take to control the symptoms;
        - Administering glucagon in an emergency in accordance with health care provider orders; and
        - Implementing a student's medical plan and a student's 504 plan**;**
        - Providing and distributing the required documents for notification, consent for the administration of Medications, medical emergency contact information, and any other appropriate documents to the appropriate individuals or entities; and
        - Ensuring that appropriate school personnel are available to administer insulin during the school day and during other school–sponsored events and activities;
        - A description of student responsibilities in relation to the student's diabetes care that are age and clinically appropriate;
        - Establishing procedures for students who have been determined by the school nurse to be capable of and responsible for self–management of their diabetes in accordance with health care provider orders; and
        - Any other issue that is relevant to the administration of health care services to students with diabetes