

Risk Matters: Preventing Harm, Reducing Risks, and Improving Student Safety

Why Report?

In order to increase everyone's awareness of operations and imperfections in the system you must report. If you do not report or speak up, you are undermining the organization by making it unaware of what it needs to know to work effectively. Reporting allows the organization to triage and fix problems quickly.

Examples include: Procedural errors, medication errors (prescribing, dispensing, administering), specimen handling problems--- lost and mislabeled specimens, IV infiltrations, falls or other accidents, equipment failures/problems, process breakdowns, i.e. stocking Pyxis, visitor accidents, unexpected complications, unplanned returns to surgery, unplanned transfers to the ICU etc.

Risk Management generates monthly Unit Incident Data reports for many areas (available through your manager and on the safety website) to help leaders close the loop with their staff, increase awareness of risks, encourage conversation and learning, as well as to direct future performance improvement work.

Risk Management reviews all Safety Event reports. Notable reports are presented at the Organizational Incident Report Review meeting for shared learning. Partner with your manager to provide occurrence management related education to your area and to provide assistance as needed. Ask your manager to discuss how occurrence report data is reviewed and used by your area. Remember, you are the best source for identifying ways to create and sustain a culture of safety for the student.

Reference: Risk/Safety Education, Road Show, Revised 2014
Legal Risk Department, Children's National

Nyrtha D. Braxton, MGA, RN
Ambulatory Risk Coordinator, Legal / Risk Management Department

What Makes School Nursing Worthwhile

Ty'dria Robertson, a 5th grader at Kipp DC Arts and Technology, created the artwork in this picture to show her appreciation for the nurses at her school, Carolyn Dickens, RN, BSN, and Sue Hall, RN. This lovely illustration should remind us that our hard work does not go unnoticed, and that we are appreciated.

Sue Hall, RN
School Nurse-- Kipp DC Arts & Tech/Maya Angelou PCS

December Health Observances

World AIDS Day (December 1st)
Safe Toys and Gifts Month



Showing How You Make Kids Better

Every day school nurses work hard to ensure that students in their schools are healthy and ready to learn. Now the DC Department of Health is asking Children's School Services to demonstrate how your work makes a difference. The Department of Health expects school nurses to participate in ongoing programs of quality improvement to achieve measurable goals and objectives. This requires using data to monitor performance and track progress. To accomplish this, Children's School Services (CSS) has created an Outcomes and Evaluations Unit tasked with developing better ways to measure the effectiveness of our efforts to improve the health of children in the DC Public and Public Charter Schools where CSS nurses are assigned.

The CSS Outcomes and Evaluation Team will be collecting and analyzing data to show how your work affects health outcomes of students, such as immunization compliance, school attendance, and the well-being of children with special healthcare needs. The Outcomes and Evaluations Team will use data from Health Office and the DC Immunization Registry, as well as school attendance data, to evaluate the effects of nursing activities in CSS-covered schools. Thorough documentation in Health Office will enhance this effort, as data captured through Health Office allows your activities to be counted. Through organizing data to show changes over time, the Outcomes and Evaluations Team can help track progress toward specific goals.

The CSS Outcomes and Evaluations Team began its work this fall with a look at immunization compliance data. Even while overall immunization compliance remains high, the percent of children in CSS-covered schools in full compliance with school requirements has fallen from 92 percent in June 2012 to 86 percent in June 2014. According to registry reports, in November 2014, over 10,000 children in CSS-covered schools were overdue for at least one required immunization. Compliance is lowest in the middle schools.

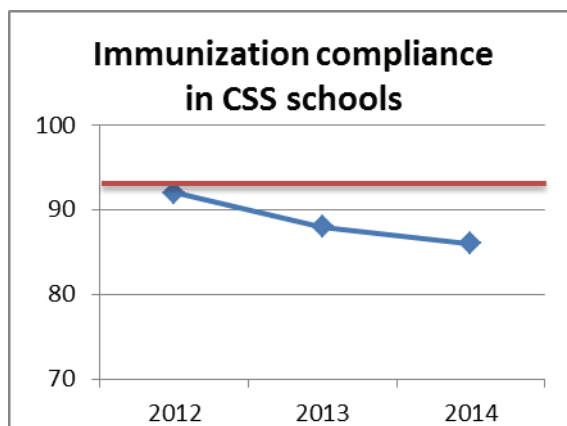
Extra effort is needed to reverse this downward trend and to protect all children against vaccine preventable diseases. During the 2014-2015 school year, the team will focus on improving immunization compliance in select middle schools in Ward 8 by providing additional resources to support reminder-recall efforts. Lessons learned here will be applied in future efforts to improve adolescent immunization compliance throughout the District.

Efforts also will be made to collect and analyze baseline data to identify other areas where additional resources should be invested in the future. Your input is extremely important. You might be asked to respond to short surveys to collect information about your school and share your observations and ideas about how the system might be improved. Where data indicates a need for improvement, your help will be needed to identify barriers that might be remedied and resources that might be needed.

The team will also work to facilitate sharing lessons learned so that processes that work for the top performers can be reproduced where improvement is needed. Members of the new team include Linda Fu, MD, MS, Janet Gingold, MD, MPH, Catherine Gillespie, PhD, and Kathleen Zook, RN, MPH, who will work in collaboration with Colleen Whitmore, MSB, RN, FNP, Director of Nursing Services, Sharon Bostic, BSN, MBA, CPN, Director of Quality and Education and the CSS Management Team.

For more about how you can contribute to improvement efforts and make use of CSS Outcomes and Evaluations resources, please talk with your nurse manager.

Janet Gingold, MD, MPH
Community Quality Improvement Coach, Children's National



Promoting Flu Shots

Flu season is upon us. Are the children enrolled in your school protected? Increasing school-wide coverage with flu vaccine can help to improve attendance throughout the flu season. Flu vaccine is recommended for all people over 6 months of age. That includes parents, grandparents and school personnel, as well as students.

Because children with special health care needs are at increased risk of complications of flu, it is even more important to protect them by vaccinating them and the people around them. Posting signs about flu vaccine in your health suite and elsewhere in your school will help to remind both children and adults that flu vaccine can help everyone stay healthy through the flu season. CDC's flu vaccine flyer is available at http://www.flu.gov/prevention-vaccination/vaccination/hhs_flugov_infographic_06-85x11.pdf.

The Role of the School Nurse: Encourage children and parents to see their health-care providers to get their flu vaccines and let them know about flu clinics sponsored by the Department of Health and other community-based organizations. Let them know you had yours— after all you want to be there to take care of them and you wouldn't want to transmit any infections to people you care about.

Outreach Project at Largo Community Church

On Monday, December 1st, my daughter Crystal Moore and I helped sort and pack clothes and toys that are being sent to the Philippines. This event was sponsored by the Women's Fellowship Ministry and is just one of the many outreach projects that we do at our church. My daughter and I were happy to donate the items because we know that it is always better to give than receive!

Rose Moore, RN, BSN
School Nurse-Drew ES



Healthy Recipe of the Month – Black Beans and Rice

Prep Time: 30 to 40 minutes

Ingredients:

- 2 15-oz. cans black beans, drained
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp. cilantro
- 14 oz. can diced tomatoes (low sodium)
- 1/2 cup frozen corn niblets, thawed
- 1 cup hot cooked rice
- 1/4 cup jalapeno jack cheeses, shredded
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- Red pepper flakes to taste (optional)

Directions:

- 1.) Saute 3/4 cup onions, garlic and bay leaves in oil
- 2.) Add black beans, cilantro, tomatoes, cumin, chili powder, red peppers flakes and corn
- 3.) Simmer until heated through and flavors meld
- 4.) Make a mold of cooked rice on a platter
- 5.) Pour bean mixture over the rice
- 6.) Garnish with 1/4 cup chopped onions
- 7.) Sprinkle cheese over the beans

This newsletter is published monthly by the Children's School Services School Health Nursing Program.

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