

Suffolk Health Systems and Suffolk County Council Children and Young People's Services Department



Eligibility Criteria For Specialist Learning Support

Statement

Children and young people will have **exceptional and significant complex health needs and be reliant upon technologies for their survival, which meet the eligibility criteria for Continuing Health Care funding**. The children require constant supervision to ensure their safety whilst in school, and the delivery of specialist medical procedures to enable them to access the national curriculum.

Definition

The child or young person's general health is frail or at risk as a result of a primary diagnosis **affecting various body systems and hourly or more frequent nursing interventions are required**:

- Poorly controlled Epilepsy – child/young person has multiple seizures daily and requires specialist management in school including the administration of emergency anticonvulsant medication to arrest seizure. Child/young person has seizures that have a significant impact on the child/young person's health such as breathing difficulties.
- Airway management **Type A** – child/young person suffers pooling of secretions at the back of the pharynx and dysphasia and requires constant supervision and oral/naso pharyngeal suction hourly to minimize the risk of choking. Child/young person has chronic lung disease from persistent chest infections. Child/young person requires chest physio in school to maintain airway. Child/young person requires oxygen therapy or availability of oxygen at all times.
- Airway management **Type B** - child has a tracheostomy to breathe and requires constant supervision and tracheal suction hourly/more frequently to maintain airway patency to prevent a respiratory arrest.
- Airway management **Type C** – child cannot breathe unaided for part of or all of the 24-hour period, and is reliant upon assisted mechanical ventilation to breathe. The child requires constant supervision and interventions to deliver safe mechanical ventilation.
- Sustained debilitating or unpredictable medical condition/syndrome that involves dependence upon an adult to monitor and potentially intervene for most or all of the day.

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- Reliant upon technologies for survival. Child/young person is reliant on two or more of the following technologies for survival. These include:-
 - Parenteral nutrition
 - Tracheostomy
 - Mechanical ventilation
 - Suction machine
 - Nebuliser
 - Dialysis
 - Oxygen supply
 - Intravenous access devices i.e. Hickman line, Portacath
 - Ostomies i.e. colostomy, ileostomy, vesicostomy
- Nursing interventions that are required hourly or more frequently which can only be delivered by a suitably trained member of education staff who has been trained, assessed and deemed competent by a qualified health care professional.
 - Nursing interventions include:
 - Airway management
 - Airway suctioning
 - Administration of medication
 - Chest physiotherapy
 - Documentation of clinical data
 - Emergency care
 - Enteral tube feeding
 - Eye care
 - Infection control
 - Mechanical ventilation
 - Ostomy care
 - Oxygen therapy
 - Seizure management
 - Technology management, use of technological equipment and devices to monitor condition or sustain life.
 - Tube care, management of external drainage device exiting the body
 - Wound care

(Nursing interventions taken from Nursing Interventions Classification. Dochterman, J.C. and Bulechek, G.M (Eds). (2004) 4th Edition. St Louis, MO: Mosby.)

For more information on definition of nursing interventions please contact care co-ordinator for specialist learning support.

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Children and young people who have specialist management of their bladder and bowel incontinence, have physical and learning disabilities or who have enteral nutritional support via a percutaneous gastrostomy can be managed in school under existing arrangements for learning support assistants.

The requirement for specialist learning support will be reviewed at the quarterly specialist learning support panel meetings to determine whether the criteria for such support is continuing to be met.