Roles and Responsibilities of School Health Nurse
What is School Nursing?

Definition based on your experience as a school health nurse (2 Minutes)
Definition
School Nursing

“A specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students.”

National Association of School Nurses (1999)

This definition is also quoted in the HAAD scope of practice of school health nurses.
Purpose of School nursing

• Facilitate positive student responses to normal development
• Promote health and safety
• Intervene with actual and potential health problems
• Provide case management services
• Collaborate with others to build student and family for adaptation, self management, self advocacy and learning.
Groups involved in the care

- Toddlers
- Preschoolers
- School age
- Teenage
- Adults
- Children with special needs
Roles of school Health Nurses

NASN, 2002

1. Provides direct healthcare to student & staff
2. Provides leadership for the provision of health services
3. Provides screening and referral for health conditions
4. Promotes a healthy school environment
5. Promotes health
6. Leadership role for health policies and programs
7. Liaison between school personnel, family, community, and health care providers.
The role of the school nurse encompasses both health and educational needs

(American Academy of Pediatrics, 2008)
Role: Direct care

Responsibilities

• Performs comprehensive & systematic health assessment
• Analyzes data to identify health problems
• Develops individualized healthcare plan and refers for further follow up (children with chronic conditions or special needs)
• Manages and updates plan and communicates it to concerned personnel

(AAP, 2008; HAAD, 2010)
• Provides ongoing health information to students, parents and school authorities
• Plans, implements and supervises school health screening programs
• Directs immunization program
• Administers medications as per HAAD guidelines
• Documents care & maintains records
• Reports school health data (identifies health issues)

(AAP, 2008; HAAD, 2010; & NASN, 2002)
Role: Leadership

Responsibilities:

• Development of plans and training staff in emergencies and disasters
• Maintain confidentiality in communication and documentation
• Appropriate delegation of care (initial assessment, training, competency validation, supervision, and evaluation)

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008)
Role: Screening and referral

Responsibilities

• Screening: vision, hearing, posture, body mass index, etc
• Refer in timely manner
• Recognize any deviation from normal growth development and behavior

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Role: Promote healthy school environment

Responsibilities

• Provides physical and emotional safety
• Implement precaution against blood borne pathogens and infectious diseases
• Monitors immunization
• Assures appropriate exclusion and re-entry into school

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Role: Promote healthy school environment

- Reports communicable diseases
- Assesses the physical environment (playground, indoor air quality, review illness or injury)
- Participates in developing a plan for prevention and management of hazards
- Assesses emotional environment of school (bullying, violence, suicide prevention plan)

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Role: Promotes Health

Responsibilities

• Provides health education to students, parents, teachers & communities

• Assists in development of health education curriculum

• Promotes health in school health councils

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Role: Promotes Health

- Collaborates with staff, students, parents and other professionals to assess health needs and develop a school health plan
- Prepares statistical reports on health promotion activities for HAAD and ADEC and other government entities
- Acts as role model in promoting a healthy lifestyle

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Role: Leadership for health policies and programs

Responsibilities
• Health expert within school system
• Leader in development and evaluation of school health policies, procedures and standing orders

Policies may include:
• Health promotion and protection
• Chronic disease management

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Continuation....

- Coordinates school health program
- School wellness policies
- Crisis / disaster management
- Emergency medical condition management
- Mental health protection and intervention
- Acute illness management
- Infectious disease prevention and management
Role: Leadership for health policies and programs

- Documents and prepares report (legal, regulatory and policy requirements)
- Utilizes critical thinking, time management, problem solving skills in management of care
- Adapts leadership and management style to changing circumstances

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Continuation....

- Engages in research and evaluation of school health services
- Acts as change agent for school health programs and school nursing practices.
Role: Liaison

Responsibilities

- Serves as liaison between school, home and community
- Establish working relationship with pediatricians to ensure individualized health plans are executed
- Communicates with family through phone written communication

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Continuation...

• communicates with community health providers and agencies ensuring confidentiality
• Develops community partnerships to promote health of community
Role: Coordinate and collaborate

- Act as resource person in promoting health
- Maintains supplies and equipments in the school clinic according to HAAD requirements
- Ensures accessibility of school health services to all student and staff
- Sets up daily log to list students who visit the nurses office or needs special attention

(NASN, 2002; AAP, 2008; HAAD 2010)
Other Responsibilities: Accountability

Accepts **accountability** for own actions and decision making

- Practices within the scope of practice
- Maintains competency
- Seeks guidance in situations beyond scope of practice

(HAAD, 2010)
Other Responsibilities: Legal

Practices within the **legal framework** of UAE.

- Maintains current license to practice
- Practices in accordance with national, jurisdictional legislations
- Demonstrates knowledge and follows the policies and procedures

(HAAD 2010)
Other Responsibilities: Ethical

- Follows the UAE nursing code of conduct
- Advocates protection of human rights and reports any violation in accordance with jurisdiction and code of conduct
- Maintains confidentiality
- Demonstrates sensitivity to diversity in culture and religion.

(HAAD 2010)
Other Responsibilities: Personal & Professional Development

- Assumes responsibility for professional development
- Ensures continuing competency (BLS, PALS)
- Maintains record of learning and professional development activities
- Promotes and maintains a positive image of nursing
- Uses nursing research and best practice guideline
- Represents nursing profession in relevant committees, taskforce, board or forums.

(HAAD 2010)
Other Responsibilities: Nurse- student ratio

According to NASN(1995),

- Usually 1 nurse per 750 students;
- 1 nurse per 225 students when students require daily nursing interventions
- 1 nurse per 125 students when students have complex needs

(AAP, 2008)
Expanded role of school health nurses

- Constant challenge is that the children in any one school are cared for by different health care providers; protocols and equipment may be different, requiring school nurse to be familiar with multiple technologies and protocols.

- The skill level has increased (Ventilators, catheters, feeding tubes, chest physiotherapy, glucose monitoring, and insulin pumps)

(Wolfe & Selekean, 2002)
Role of a school nurse in a nutshell

The knowledge of school nurse must be extensive, competent, responsible and accountable. They are not only pediatric nurses but also community health nurse psychiatric nurse

(Wolfe & Selekman, 2002)
Continuation...

emergency-room nurse
home care nurse.
primary and acute care providers
the educators
the policy makers
social workers
office managers
nursing administrators.
Conclusion

School Health Nurses

At the heart of the school health practice is the belief that all children have the ability to learn, right to an education and society is best served when its young people are educated.

Each one of you has responsibility in molding the future of this country.
References


