



BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center

Tips for School Nurses

Outlined below are tips and appropriate responses for school nurses in situations that may arise in children with cancer:

General/Informational

- Request information from the parents on the child's diagnosis and treatment.
- Establish open communication with Greenville Health System's School Intervention Program (SIP) team.
- Inquire about the side effects of treatment that a child may experience.
- Ask about changes that will affect the child's body image (e.g., hair loss, amputation, crutches, wheelchair).
- Identify any activity restrictions or modifications.
- Inquire about medications that will be administered at the school and obtain the appropriate orders.
- Report infectious outbreaks at the school to the family or SIP team.
- If a child is out for an extended period of time, schedule a meeting with the child and his or her family before the child's return to school.
- Keep updated with the child's progress.

Problems with the Broviac Catheter/PICC LINE

If the cap falls off or leaks: Clamp as close to the insertion site or dressing as possible.

If there is a break in the Broviac line: Clamp between the break and dressing site immediately.

If the Broviac catheter falls out: Apply gauze with pressure. Save the Broviac to give to the parents.

If the dressing gets wet: Call the parents so that the dressing can be changed.

Venous Access Device (Port)

If a child with a venous access device falls, bumps or is hit at the port site, apply ice as the site may be painful, bruised or swollen.

Fever

If the child's temperature is 100 degrees or greater axillary or 101 degrees or greater orally, contact the parents or SIP team immediately. Do not give aspirin or any product that contains a similar product, such as Motrin, Advil or Aleve.

Exposures

Send a letter to the parents of classmates requesting that they notify you of any contagious illness in their child or his or her siblings. If you think a child with cancer has been exposed to an illness such as chickenpox, shingles, measles or mumps, contact his or her parents or the SIP team immediately.

Bleeding

Apply pressure. If bleeding does not stop easily, follow your standard emergency procedures.

Nose Bleeds

Have the child sit upright and apply firm pressure to the cartilage of the nose. Do not allow the child to blow his or her nose.

Immunizations

No immunizations are to be given until six to 12 months after the completion of chemotherapy. Immunizations are not given during chemotherapy because of the lack of antibody response. Live vaccines can cause serious illness in children with cancer. Tetanus vaccines may be given.

If any other symptoms or problems occur, contact the parents or SIP team immediately at **(864) 455-8898**.