

Key Elements Guide for the Diabetes Delegation Decision Grid

Level of Client Stability	Diabetes is a chronic, unstable, health condition that can be optimally managed based on the stability of environmental factors like school and family support, developmental acceptance and adaptation to chronic disease. School nurses assess ‘students’ not patients and see all the factors that contribute to the health and wellness of a student. Example: A ‘student’ whose family dynamics are insecure and cannot provide the needed supplies and/or oversight/support of student is going to be less stable than a family able to provide the supplies and oversight/support of the student.
Level of Licensed Nurse Competence	Determination of Expert Level: The expert school nurse no longer relies on an analytic principle (rule, guideline, maxim) to connect her or his understanding of a situation to an appropriate action. The extensive background of the expert school nurse fosters an intuitive grasp of each situation and identification of the nexus of the problem without wasteful consideration of many alternative diagnoses and solutions. “They do what in experience has normally worked, and naturally, it normally works” (Benner, Tanner and Chesla, 1996). The expert operates from a deep understanding of the whole situation. Although the expert’s performance is ongoing and non-reflective, she or he thinks before acting, reflects upon the goal or perspective that seems evident, and upon the action that seems appropriate to achieving the goal. The expert school nurse sees intuitively what to do without applying rules and making inferences.
Potential for Harm (Levels of Risk)	Diabetes care tasks have higher potential for harm because of the complexity and inter-relatedness of each task. There is potential for harm even if instructions are not followed.
Level of Decision Making	Decision making implies having multiple choices and choosing one option. If the UAP is following the protocols per the IHP, this is not decision making but rather following instructions.
EMS Response Time	Important factor in determining the requirement for delegation in some community settings.
Scoring	A low score would indicate that the activity could be safely delegated, a high score would caution against delegation. Each district should establish a policy regarding the level of score deemed acceptable for delegation. If two or more individual element scores are high, it is suggested that the school nurse discuss his/her decision to delegate with the direct supervisor.

For further questions/information, contact the Diabetes Resource Nurse for your area. This contact information can be found at www.coloradokidswithdiabetes.org