



# *California School Nurses Organization*

## Position Statement

### EMERGENCY CARE PLANS

#### STATEMENT

The California School Nurses Organization supports the use of Emergency Care Plans (ECP). Individualized emergency care plans should be in place for all students whose medical conditions may require emergency care and interventions by school staff. It is critical that the ECP be developed by the credentialed school nurse, in collaboration with the family, student and health care providers and in consultation with school site administrators. An ECP should be developed as part of the student's Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan or Individualized School Health Plan and be available in the event that the student develops a medical emergency or is detained or sheltered at school due to an unexpected event or disaster. An emergency care plan should include:

- Information regarding child's medical condition
- Current and emergency medications
- Appropriate emergency interventions
- Names and numbers of persons to be notified

Confidentiality must be maintained by sharing the emergency care plan only with school personnel responsible for responding to the specified medical emergencies, unexpected events or disasters. Appropriate school personnel require initial and ongoing training under the direction and monitoring of the credentialed school nurse.

#### RATIONALE

Emergency Care Plans ensure that a plan of action is in place to maintain the student's health and safety during a life-threatening emergency. The credentialed school nurse has the expertise to make a complete assessment of the child's medical condition, current medications and/or treatments and determine the appropriate emergency interventions to provide safe and appropriate care, thus promoting quality school health and nursing services within the current standards of practice.

#### References:

National Association of School Nurses Position Statement: *Emergency Care Plans for Students with Special Health Care Needs*. Revised 2004.

**Adopted:** 11/99, Revised 11/02 and name changed from **Emergency Care Plans for Students with Special Health Care Needs**, Revised 10/05, 11/08, 11/11, Board of Directors, California School Nurses Organization.