

Supporting children with medical conditions in schools – a guide for professionals

Working together with the Children's Community Nursing (CCN) and the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team

Note:

Please refer to Hammersmith and Fulham Medical Needs Guidance for Schools and Professionals:

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-12/medical-needs-guidance-for-schools-and-professionals.pdf>

The **Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Service** is provided by Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH) and is based in the North, Central and South areas of the borough. The service provides universal support to all children and young people with a Hammersmith and Fulham School place. School nurses offer training on a few medical conditions affecting school age children in addition to mental health, relationships and sex and health education, and health promotion sessions.

School nurses Contact Details:

Website: <https://clch.nhs.uk/services/school-nursing>

Duty Email: CLCHT.hfschoolhealthteam@nhs.net

The **Children's Community Nursing service (CCN)** is provided by Central London Community Healthcare Trust (CLCH) and is based at The Medical Centre, Woodfield Road. The teams in the service provide specialist nursing services for children and young people (CYP) living in Hammersmith and Fulham, and registered with a Hammersmith & Fulham GP.

Children's Community Nursing Service Contact Details:

Telephone: 020 7266 8777 **E-mail:** CLCHT.CCNTeam@nhs.net

Continence support

The Continence Promotion Team in Central London Community HealthCare NHS Trust (CLCH) is provided for adults over the age of 18.

However, for children who have continence needs, the assessments are usually undertaken by your child's Health Visitor, Specialist Health Visitor, or School Nurse, including the Special Schools Nurses. Occasionally the assessments might be undertaken by the Children's Community Nurses, for example if your child attends a school outside of Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster, or Kensington and Chelsea. Your child will need to be registered with a GP in one of these boroughs in order to be assessed for continence products from CLCH.

Many children will be able to be toilet trained by the age of 3 or 4 years. However,

for some children this can be challenging or delayed for a variety of reasons. If your

child is not able to be toilet trained by the age of 4, then CLCH will consider to supply pads or nappies to support your child. Alternatively, there are products available on prescription which may be suitable.

An assessment will be undertaken which will assist the assessor to signpost you to groups or professionals who may be able to offer additional support or equipment to you and your child. Such services might be a toileting group run by the Child Development Service, or the Enuresis Clinic. The assessment will also consider what size of nappies or pads are suitable for your child and a maximum of four continence products per 24 hour period will be supplied; however the service does not supply pull up pants or bed protection. There is a small range of nappies and pads available.

Deliveries to your home are usually every 8 – 12 weeks and it is important to use these across the whole time period because the service cannot supply additional products. You will be provided with a telephone number in order to organise your child's delivery. Children receiving continence products are assessed annually to review bladder and bowel health and maintain supply of products. This will ensure that the product remains suitable for your child. Of course you can contact your health care professional in the meantime if you want the size changed.

Occasionally none of the products in the catalogue are suitable. In cases like this, it may be possible for a Personal Health Budget to be agreed. This will allow for an agreed financial package in order for you to source and purchase your own choice of products. Children's Community Nurses and Special Schools Nurses are able to assess for a Personal Health Budget (PHB) – they will obtain advice from professionals who work with your child and also cost out a range of products. The Children's Health Commissioner will decide whether a PHB is appropriate and if this is agreed, it will be set up through the Local Authority payments scheme. This will be explained to you by the relevant direct payments officer, or local social services representative.

Who to contact

School Nurse or CCN team (see contact details at top of document)

For additional help and support for children's continence issues you can also visit www.eric.org.uk and www.bbuk.org.uk

Enuresis School Health Clinic in Hammersmith and Fulham (Tier 2)

Bedwetting (enuresis) is a medical condition which should be treated in children from age 5. Around 15% of all 7 year olds regularly wet the bed. Children's bedwetting can be caused by one or more reasons. The good news is they all are treatable. Support is available from the age of 5 from the School Nurse service (Tier 1) and from the age of 7 referrals are accepted by the School Nurse led enuresis clinic (Tier 2). The evidence shows the sooner your child is assessed and treated for bedwetting, the better chance they have of becoming dry at night. All School nurses receive ERIC Training and deliver local training also.

Tier 1 - School Nurse /Family Support is provided by School Nurses in all local authority maintained schools. If further support is required, the School Nurse will refer to the enuresis clinic.

Tier 2 - Enuresis Clinic is held at Parsons Green Health Centre for the three Boroughs on Monday afternoons during term, by appointment only.

Tier 3 - with the Paediatric Consultants at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital.

NICE guidelines recommend that all children still bedwetting over age 5 should be given a bladder and bowel assessment by a healthcare professional. Contact your GP for an appointment. your child can be referred to the enuresis clinic for further assessment, treatment, and support. For further information and resources see link: <https://eric.org.uk/childrens-bladders/bedwetting/>

For specific queries, please **contact** clcht.enuresisclinicpg@nhs.net.
Or Enuresis Nurse Specialist Marie Thomas: **Telephone No:** 0208 102 4005

Allergies

Children who require Adrenaline Auto Injectors will receive ongoing prescriptions from their GP. Adrenaline Auto Injectors should last for 18 months. Schools are able to purchase emergency Adrenaline Auto Injectors if additional pens are required.

Training can be accessed through this link: <https://www.allergywise.org.uk/>
Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team can also offer allergy awareness sessions on request.

Viral wheeze

A wheeze is a high pitched musical noise heard when a child breathes out.

Wheeze caused by an infection or virus is a common condition in childhood and occurs when a cough, cold or chest infection irritates the breathing tubes that carry air in and out of the lungs. Virus induced wheeze is most common in children of pre-school age. One in three children will have had an episode by the time they are three years old. This may occur each time the child has a cold virus, but yet they are normally well and symptom free when they don't have a cold. If your child was born early, has had bronchiolitis or is exposed to cigarette smoke they are more likely to have episodes of virus induced wheeze.

Children with viral wheeze are managed by their GP.

Asthma

As part of the school admissions process, all schools (mainstream and special schools) should complete a health questionnaire. If it is determined that a child has asthma, parents should be asked to share the asthma care plan with the school, or the GP can be contacted directly for a copy of the asthma care plan. GPs are responsible for providing an asthma health care plan (unless the child has more significant asthma difficulties where they are seen by specialist services). If there are difficulties in obtaining the asthma care plan from the GP, the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team are able to assist with chasing this for you.

Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team offers a health questionnaire to all children starting school in Reception, years 7 and 9. Staff in the service provide support and advice for any children with identified asthma. The School Health Team also receive all notifications for children attending emergency services due to asthma and will follow up with advice and support to the school and the family. School nurses provide asthma awareness sessions to all schools in the area.

For out of borough GPs, all schools need to liaise with that GP directly. If you have specific problems in obtaining the asthma care plan for an out of borough GP, let the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) know and they will escalate this to the DCO in the relevant borough.

For further advice and guidance please contact the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team in the first instance

Diabetes

All children within a school or educational setting should be provided with a specifically written healthcare plan supplied by their acute managing hospital. This team can be identified by asking parents/guardian for a clinic letter that will have been sent to the school.

The Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team can support review of care plans and offer awareness sessions to schools on request. A child with a specialist need will be supported by the specialist diabetic nurse at their managing Acute Trust and the School Nurse will liaise with them to support the care in school.

Care plans should be updated annually, and these are done at the request of schools.

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust are the local acute trusts. See the details below for each of these trusts for details of the support offered and contact information, depending on which trust is overseeing the care of the CYP.

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

The specialist diabetes nurse at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is able to offer general diabetes training for CYP within Hammersmith and Fulham schools and for professionals working with children.

The Imperial College Diabetes team also offer bespoke training based on the family's and school's needs. All children's schools, on diagnosis or moving to a new school, will be offered face to face (or sometimes virtual) training and an individualised care plan. They will support additional training for any issues which arise - either face to face or virtual.

The Imperial College Diabetes team invite all schools via a central contact to a school education virtual sessions which occur 6-8 times per year (based on the last 2 years). These sessions last 3.5 hours and gives an overview of what is needed to keep children safe in school; including carb counting and videos showing the practical elements.

Care plans should be updated annually, and these are done at the request of schools.

For further advice and guidance please contact the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team in the first instance

The Imperial College Children and Young People's Diabetes Team Contact Details:

Telephone: 020 3312 6482 **E-mail:** imperial.cyp-diabetes@nhs.net

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The specialist diabetes nurse at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital offers general diabetes training virtually, for CYP within Hammersmith & Fulham schools and for professionals working with children.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Diabetes team also offer bespoke training based on the family's and school's needs. All children's schools, on diagnosis or moving to a new school, will be offered individual training and an individualised care plan. At present all training sessions are provided virtually using Microsoft Teams. If it is felt a face-to-face training is required, please contact the team directly to discuss options.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital's Diabetes team invite all schools via a central contact to a school education virtual session which occur 6-8 times per year (based on the last 2 years). These sessions last 2.5 hours and gives an overview of what is needed to keep children safe in school; including carb counting and videos showing the practical elements.

Care plans should be updated annually, and these are done at the request of schools.

For further advice and guidance please contact the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team in the first instance

The Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Children and Young People's Diabetes Team Contact Details:

Telephone: T: 0203 315 3114 / 0203 315 8128 M: 07900763586 / 07816079385

E-mail: caw-tr.cw.paeddiabetes@nhs.net

Epilepsy

For children and young people with epilepsy, parents / carers need to provide the educational setting with a letter or epilepsy passport from the paediatrician confirming the diagnosis. This should include information on triggers and seizure types, prescribed anti-epileptic drugs and guidance for administration of emergency medication. This information can be transcribed into a Health Care Plan, which the Epilepsy Specialist Nurse or Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team can assist with, if the child or young person is attending a school or other educational setting. The Epilepsy Specialist Nurse can complete a Health Care Plan for children and young people not attending school if required.

Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team also offer yearly epilepsy awareness sessions to all local state funded schools in the area.

If the child / young person attends a special school, training will be provided for all relevant staff on site, by the Special School Nurse or by the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team as appropriate.

For children requiring emergency rescue medication such as Buccal Midazolam the School Nurse can arrange training. All identified staff supporting the children and young people in school should undertake general 'Epilepsy awareness' and 'Emergency management of a seizure' training. Online training for education settings can be accessed through these links:

<https://www.youngpilepsy.org.uk/guide-for-schools/epileptic-seizures/>

<https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/training/for-schools>

www.youngpilepsy.org.uk/guideforschools

For further advice and guidance please contact the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team in the first instance

The Specialist Epilepsy Nurse can also oversee the support for CYP and their networks, by supporting the community paediatricians during diagnosis and investigations, management and care planning, review and transition.

The Specialist Epilepsy Nurse contact details:

The Chelsea & Westminster Epilepsy Clinical Nurse Specialist is:

Trisha Clews Telephone: 020 3315 8000 / 020 3315 3197 / 020 3315 3326 /

Email: patricia.clews@nhs.net

St Mary's Hospital Clinical Nurse Specialist is:

Christina Korley Telephone: 020 8312 6914 **Email:** c.korley@nhs.net

Haemoglobinopathy (Sickle Cell Disease or Thalassaemia Major)

The Specialist Haemoglobinopathy nurse works in conjunction with the North West London Haemoglobinopathy Network to support children and their families manage their health condition in the community, by providing regular home visits, individual school healthcare plans in and training to schools and primary care staff.

Referrals to the service are accepted from the National New-born Screening Programme, self-referral from a parent/ carer, primary care, health & allied professionals. Further information can be obtained from <https://www.sicklecellsociety.org/>

[Sickle Cell Society - Supporting People Affected by Sickle Cell Disorder](https://www.sicklecellsociety.org/)

Crizanlizumab – A Simple Guide. For the first time in over 20 years, a new treatment for sickle cell has been made available on the NHS. Crizanlizumab will be made available on the NHS under a Managed Access Agreement (MAA), following the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's (NICE) recommendation of crizanlizumab as an option for preventing recurrent sickle cell crises.

www.sicklecellsociety.org

For further advice and guidance please contact the Specialist Haemoglobinopathy Nurse: clcht.sicklethal@nhs.net

Dysphagia

Speech and Language Therapists support children and young people (CYP) up to the age of 18 who have difficulties with eating and drinking e.g. chewing, difficulty progressing through textures or signs the CYP may have difficulty swallowing (e.g. coughing when drinking, recurrent chest infections). We do not see CYP who are fussy eaters or who have sensory issues around eating and drinking. For children who present with these difficulties (for example, accepting of specific brands, colours or textures of food only, intolerance of foods mixing/touching on the plate), consider referral to Occupational Therapy (for input regarding sensory issues) and/or clinical psychology or CAMHS (support regarding behaviour).

This service is for CYP who have eating drinking and swallowing difficulties with GPs within the inner London boroughs this includes Hammersmith and Fulham

The service operates an open referral system (referrals can be made by parents and carers, healthcare professionals, education colleagues and social services). A dysphagia service referral form is available here and should be sent to clcht.chirp@nhs.net :

https://www.clch.nhs.uk/application/files/5516/5123/7149/CLCH_SLT_Inner_borough_s_Eating_Drinking_and_Swallowing_referral_form_2022_1.pdf

We aim to see referrals within 2-4 weeks depending on the urgency of the referral. We offer appointments during standard working hours, the first appointment will most likely to take place in clinic or at the CYP's school. We also offer some appointments at home or virtually where needed.

Follow up appointments will be made if it is felt the CYP would benefit from further advice and intervention to keep them safe when eating and drinking. We will set goals of what to work on and share strategies with the CYP's parents/carers and school staff to support identified needs. A report and care plan with specific recommendations and strategies may be written and shared with key people caring for and working with the CYP. Referrals to other specialities may be recommended and discussed, for example Videofluoroscopy, Ear Nose and Throat, Respiratory, Gastroenterology or Dietetics.

We offer training to school staff to support the safe management of children with eating, drinking and swallowing needs in schools as well as individualised training to carry out eating, drinking and swallowing care plans.

Information can also be found in this service leaflet:

https://www.clch.nhs.uk/application/files/8016/5115/6482/What_to_expect_from_the_SLT_service_for_children_with_eating_drinking_and_swallowing_difficulties.pdf

For specific queries, please contact clcht.slt-paediatricdysphagia@nhs.net

Any other conditions

Where children are receiving care under a specialist hospital, the treating professional should produce a Health Care Plan. Guidance is often provided in the form of a letter. Schools may require support in interpreting information contained in letters.

In mainstream schools, School nurses should be approached for support.

In special schools, the Special School Nurse (SSN) should be approached for support.

Parents are responsible for ensuring the school team is kept up to date with any changes to care need and provide the most up to date letter.

If you would like to discuss or clarify any of the above, please contact the Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Team or the Special School Nurses (under the Children's Community Nursing team) as appropriate. Contact details are at the top of this document.

School Health Service

Hammersmith and Fulham School Health Service works in schools within the borough. The service includes qualified nurses who have additional qualifications in Specialist Community and Public Health Nursing (School Nurses) as well as registered nurses (School Staff Nurses), and Child and family Advisors. All staff are trained in Mental Health First Aid, Emotional Wellbeing, Relationship, Sex, Enuresis (ERIC), weight management, and Safeguarding. The school health team offer training on a number of medical conditions affecting school age children in addition to mental health, puberty, hygiene, relationship and sex and health education, and health promotion sessions, coffee mornings, drop ins etc. The team also includes a number of specialist practitioners including a Lead for SEND and Youth Justice, Lead for Infant feeding and weight management, Safeguarding Lead and Lead for Clinical Education.

The service works with the local communities, the family and individual children/young people to ensure children's health needs are met. The service works

in mainstream schools and has links with nurseries, GPs and Children Centres in the borough.

Staff in the service offer health assessments to vulnerable children as well as advice and support for children and parents around health issues such as continence, behaviour, sleep and emotional health, healthy weight and lifestyle.

Schools will receive access to a named school nurse for the school, who will offer support with:

- Yearly Partnership agreement with the school
- Medical needs training support with care plan review support (asthma, epilepsy, anaphylaxis and other conditions per school request)
- Drop in service
- Safeguarding support
- Universal Health Questionnaire to all children starting reception, Years 7 and 9
- Health promotions assemblies, coffee mornings and parents' evenings
- Universal screening (vision and hearing) from the age of 5 (reception)
- National Childhood Measurement Program (NCMP) in eligible schools
- Duty line to offer support and advice to children, families, schools, and other professionals every day of the working week.

For further support and guidance please contact:

Duty Email: Clcht.hfschoolhealthteam@nhs.net

Or Clinical Service Lead Carol Cork , **Email address:** carol.cork@nhs.net

Children's Community Nurses (CCNs)

The CCNs provide nursing care to CYP in Hammersmith & Fulham; Kensington & Chelsea; and Westminster with acute or long-term complex needs in their own home or community setting, e.g. nursery, mainstream school, etc. The specialist nursing services includes support for but not limited to the following areas:

- Blood sampling
- Care of children with cancers and leukaemia
- Giving intravenous, intramuscular, and subcutaneous medication
- Home oxygen therapy
- Wound management
- Special or complex health needs
- Support and equipment for nasogastric and gastrostomy tube feeds
- Children who are dependent on medical technology
- Palliative and end of life care
- Bereavement support
- Medical, developmental, and bereavement play

The CCNs work closely with Imperial's PATCH (Providing Acute Treatment for Children at Home) service. This enables admission avoidance for acutely unwell children, such as those with respiratory illness, or neonatal jaundice, where it is safe to do so.

CCNs can make referrals to the North West London Children's Continuing Care Team for assessment for care packages if appropriate, and support complex discharges from hospital.

Training may be provided by the CCNs, or outsourced to an appropriate provider. Training to main providers may include, but is not limited to, emergency central line care, gastrostomy care and feeds, and administration of oxygen.

CCNs also provide professional advice for EHCPs for children on their caseload and support schools with Health Care Plans for children on the caseload in conjunction with the school nurses.

For further advice and guidance please contact the Team:

CLCHT.CCNTeam@nhs.net

Special School Nurses (SSNs)

The SSNs provide specialist nursing care to CYP aged 4 to 19 years old, with ongoing complex health needs, at Jack Tizard School in Hammersmith and Fulham, and Queen Elizabeth 2 Jubilee School in Westminster in order to enable them to access education. This includes working with colleagues in education in supporting schools with enteral feeding, such as nasogastric, gastrostomy or jejunostomy feeding, the administration of regular medication, supporting medical emergencies, undertaking continence assessments, liaising with families' health and social care professionals. Children's Community Nurses cover the SSNs in their absence.

SSNs can assist with writing a Health Care Plan in conjunction with relevant staff.

The Special Schools are responsible for ensuring Health Care Plans are updated at least annually or whenever there is any change in the condition or management of the condition.

The service will also arrange for any training required for administering emergency medication.

The SSNs also provide training on how to implement safe clinical procedures to school staff working with the CYP, for example suctioning, oxygen management.

For further advice and guidance please contact the Service Lead:

Sara Buttle **Telephone:** 07721246192 **Email:** sara.buttle@nhs.net

Children's Continuing Care

Continuing care eligibility is considered when a child has health needs from a disability, accident or illness where their needs cannot be met by existing universal or specialist NHS services. We would accept referrals for any child that is registered with a GP within NHS North West London. For more information please contact nhsnwl.chc.childrens@nhs.net
