

Individual Plans of Care in Child Care

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Question: What is an individual plan of care?

Answer:

- It is a written plan of care for an individual child
- It documents specific needs or concerns for that child
- It includes specific approaches to be used to prevent, minimize or eliminate the concerns identified for this child
- It brings together the child's parent(s) and the child care staff in developing these approaches so that all are using the same agreed upon approaches taking into consideration any guidance specified by the health care provider
- It should be reviewed periodically to determine if the identified approaches are still appropriate or should be revised. There is no specific time frame for the review and/or revision. The role of the health consultant includes assisting with the development of the Individual Plan of Care

Question: What are the regulatory requirements for individual plans of care?

Answer:

- Family Child Care Homes: Section 19a-87b-10(d)-The provider shall maintain in the family child care home a written individual plan of care for each child with disabilities or special health care needs, including but not limited to, allergies, special dietary needs, dental problems, hearing or visual impairments, chronic illness, developmental variations or history of contagious disease who requires special care be taken or provided while the child is at the family child care home. Such plan shall be based on the recommendations of the child's primary health care provider, developed with the child's parent(s) at intake, implemented and updated as necessary to meet the child's changing needs. Such plan shall include appropriate care of the child in the event of a medical or other emergency and shall be signed by the provider, parent(s) and any approved staff members responsible for the care of the child.

- Group Child Care Homes/Child Care Centers: Section 19a-79-5a(a)(E)-Information regarding disabilities or special health care needs such as allergies, special dietary needs, dental problems, hearing or visual impairments, chronic illness, developmental variations or history of contagious disease and an individual plan of care for a child with special health care needs or disabilities, developed with the child's parent(s) and health care provider and updated as necessary. Such plan shall include appropriate care of the child in the event of a medical or other emergency and shall be signed by the parent(s) and staff responsible for the care of the child.

Question: When is an individual plan of care required?

Answer:

If a child has a disability or a special health care need such as allergies, special dietary needs, dental problems, hearing or visual impairments, chronic illness, developmental variations or a history of contagious disease AND

- Such child requires special care be taken or provided while the child is at the child care program
- Typically the special care is documented by the health care practitioner
- Typically the special care need is of a chronic nature but may be acute in nature. An example might be a child who has a self-limiting upper respiratory condition that is acute in nature verses a child with asthma that may have acute exacerbations but the disease itself is chronic in nature. Most likely an individual plan of care is NOT necessary for the child with an acute illness but may be necessary for the child with a chronic illness such as asthma.
- Medications alone do not make the determination

Question: How do you decide if an individual plan of care is needed?

Answer:

- Review the child's health record for any documentation that the child has a special health care need or disability
- Remember that the documentation of a diagnosis is only a starting point to ask more questions specific to this child
- Observe the interactions and care that the child needs or is receiving

- Interview child care staff responsible for the care of the child
- Evaluate the need for an individual plan of care by asking “what care or service must be provided to this child that is different than for another child”

Question: What would an individual plan of care be required to include?

Answer:

- Appropriate care of the child in the event of a medical or other emergency and/or specific approaches to be used to prevent, minimize or eliminate identified concerns
- Signature of the parent(s)
- Signature of all responsible for the care of the child. The Health Consultant may sign the plan of care also but is not required to do so.

NOTE: There is no requirement that the plan of care be signed by the physician

Question: What are examples of an individual plan of care?

Answer:

- The Asthma Action Plan, developed by the DPH Asthma Program
- The Sample Form “Individual Plan of Care for a child with special health care needs or disabilities “ found on the OEC web page

Question: What is the purpose of the Asthma Action Plan (AAP)?

Answer:

- To help families become proactive in gaining asthma control, anticipate triggers and symptoms indicating an asthma exacerbation
- To be an educational and communication tool between the provider, the patient and family and other caregivers
- Divided into the green (Go) yellow (caution) and red (warning) zones which is easily understood

- NOTE: Although asthma medications are documented on the Asthma Action Plan, not all regulatory requirements for the Authorization for the Administration of Medications in a child care setting is included on this form
- Unlicensed child care staff are not permitted to make an assessment.