

GUIDANCE ON MANAGEMENT OF PUPILS WITH DIABETES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Scottish Government has introduced an initiative for the radical intervention for the management of diabetes in younger children. Research has shown that early intervention of this kind may significantly reduce the severity of medical problems associated with diabetes in later life.

There are implications of this approach for schools, particularly for Primary Schools.

In such cases a Care Plan will need to be agreed between the school, parents and Health Service professionals.

Staff may need to be trained to help supervise the management of the pupil. This may involve regular checking of the pupil's blood sugar (by thumb pin pricking procedures) and then taking appropriate measures. These might mean giving a carbohydrate/dietary supplement or arranging for the child's insulin pump to be adjusted by contacting the nurse who would then attend to adjust the pump. However, if the parent wishes to do this, then the parent can be contacted instead of the nurse.

In the light of this information, if schools are approached either by parents or Health Board professionals to help manage pupils with diabetes, they should in the first instance contact the appropriate Education Officer to discuss possible implications as noted above.

Support and intervention of this kind is most likely to be focussed on children in Nursery or early years in Primary. Older children are likely to be capable of managing their own condition themselves.

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