Skin Integrity: Ulcer Prevention and Managing Skin Integrity

POLICY:

PERSONNAL INVOLVED

- School Nurse
- Designated School Personnel under direct or indirect supervision
- School Nurse as procedural supervision

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Specialized health care team will assess and manage skin integrity for all students on a daily basis. Students and families are to be encouraged by care providers to participate to the extent possible in the care and prevention of skin breakdown.
- Risk for pressure ulcer development will be evaluated daily and as needed for all students using a Body Check sheet.
- Skin assessments will be done more often when the student’s condition warrants an assessment that is more frequent.

PURPOSE:

- To maintain the integrity of students’ skin, a significant factor in health.
- To minimize the risks and prevent the occurrence of skin breakdown.
- To provide for early detection and intervention of all breakdown
- To promote prompt evaluation and intervention of any changes in skin integrity

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

- Skin assessment: identification of the potential risk that a student will develop skin breakdown as the result of pressure to a bony prominence or body part impacted by equipment.
- Skin Inspection: the head to toe evaluation of bony prominences and skin folds / creases when prolonged pressure may result in skin breakdown.
- Interventions: the steps taken by care providers to increase monitoring, reduce or alleviate pressure, redistribute weight, and / or eliminate friction and sheer to mitigate or eliminate the risk of skin breakdown.

PROCESS:

Skin Assessment:

- Skin Inspection will be performed on students’ daily
- Findings will be documented on the appropriate documentation.
- Pressure reduction interventions, based on the students skin assessment implemented by school staff and documented in the student’s medical record.
- The focus of the examination will be on the skin over the bony prominences and in skin fold/creases. Findings will be documented in the patient medical record (paper or electronic).
• Skin care interventions will be implemented when appropriate and documented on the appropriate form.
• Communication to the students’ caregivers of a skin breakdown is essential. The school nurse will be consulted as needed based on student’s skin condition and provider order.

CARE AND INSTRUCTIONS

The care and intervention for any identified skin breakdown or wound will be aimed at prevention of any further advancement of the wound, or additional skin breakdown

• Implementation of appropriate evidence-based care indicated for the problem identified
• Collaboration with the interdependent and interdisciplinary health care teams regarding the presence of breakdown and the intervention plan
• Close monitoring of the response to treatment
• Referral to additional resources when indicated – Students MD, Registered Dietician , Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist

EVALUATION OF THE PLAN OF CARE WILL INCLUDE:

• Provisions for changes in the plan if progress toward expected outcomes are not evident
• Review during care management if indicated
• Clear communication of progress to the rest of the specialized health care team

DOCUMENTATION

• Skin Integrity and/or conditions affecting the student’s skin must be documented according to established procedures.
• The presence of skin breakdown/abnormal skin appearance, i.e. abrasion, blister, bruising - due to pressure, burn, denuded, erythema, hematoma, laceration, rash, skin tear and wound, will be documented.
• Documentation must continue until skin condition is healed.