

EMERGENCY CARE PLAN : Shunt

Student Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Contact Information: _____



A shunt is an implanted device used to drain extra cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) that circulates around the brain and spine. It is most often used to treat a condition known as hydrocephalus. Without a release of such excess fluid, pressure in the brain will increase and cause damage. A proximal, pressure responding catheter is implanted in the lateral brain ventricle. From here, a distal tubing can be palpated usually behind the child's ear, down along the neck, before it reaches its distal location. Shunts are named for the specific organs involved. Most often, shunts are placed in the lateral brain ventricle and drain to the abdomen; known as the ventriculoperitoneal (VP) shunt. At this distal location, the CSF will be absorbed by the body. Shunts can be programmable, meaning the healthcare provider can adjust how much fluid is drained by the shunt.

Student complaints/ observations	Educator Actions	Nursing Action/Intervention
Personality changes, headache, vomiting, lethargy, vision changes, increased irritability	1. Notify the school nurse/health room.	1. Contact parent. 2. Rule out other possible source of illness. 3. If unable to contact parent, call 911. Student needs to be assessed for shunt function and/or failure.
Head injury or trauma (hit with basketball, etc.)	1. Notify the school nurse/health room.	1. Contact parent. 2. If unable to contact parent, call 911. Student needs to be assessed for shunt function and/or failure.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____