



LEARNS: Lions Empowering and Aiding Regional Nurses in Schools

A pilot project collaboration between the Virginia Diabetes Council, Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Lions Clubs 24L and Lions Clubs International Foundation. This project was made possible through the cooperation of Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Currently, there is no standardized diabetes training for school health staff in Virginia. Diabetes education and management varies widely across the Commonwealth.

Virginia Diabetes Council, Diabetes in Schools Workgroup explored, reviewed and evaluated options for Diabetes Education for school personnel. Once the program was identified, the subgroup was formed to pursue support and funding for this project.

Annual diabetes training for school health personnel is mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia for schools that have students with diabetes. School nurses and members of the school health team (to include but not limited to teachers, administrative staff, and bus drivers) assist students with the management of diabetes throughout the school day and during school-sponsored events.

The School Nurse Coordinator, or School Administrator, is responsible for ensuring that school health personnel are trained annually and meet the requirements of the *Manual for Training of Public School Employees in the Administration*

of Insulin and Glucagon, a guidance document developed by the Virginia Department of Education.

Some challenges of providing consistent training to school nurses and school health staff across the state is the quality of training materials and availability of subject matter experts (Certified Diabetes Educators) to provide training to staff. Each locality determines how the “guidelines” will be used, and what is needed to deliver quality training. Technological advances continue to improve and change the way diabetes is managed. As a result, the school health team requires frequent, on-demand training to safely and effectively treat students’ diabetes in the school setting.





The Virginia Diabetes Council (VDC) Diabetes in Schools Workgroup has made professional development a key priority.

- Collective effort to find school-based diabetes education program
- Evaluate and discuss available programs
- Meet with subject matter experts at the state and national levels
- Discuss needs of school nurses
- Address *Code of Virginia* requirements

Identified Barriers to Diabetes Training

- Rapidly changing technology and insulin delivery devices
- Advances in research
- Local school boards
- Equity or access to Certified Diabetes Educators
- Staff changes
- Staff availability for training
- Varying needs of school personnel (RN, unlicensed staff, teachers, admin, bus drivers)

Solutions to Barriers

Salus Education – provides a comprehensive, e-learning diabetes education training. Course content includes: General diabetes awareness, school nurse training (6 continuing education hours), non-medical personnel sessions, interactive insulin pump, and continuous glucose monitoring training. Each session includes definitions of terms, general guidelines, embedded videos, and a self-test.

Learning Outcomes

LEARNS will address knowledge gap and provide:

1. Standardized training modules for school nurses and school staff in 40 School divisions (initial pilot project targeting elementary schools only)
2. Equitable training experiences for participants
3. Ongoing professional development in the area of diabetes management



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