



## Students with Physical Impairments: Suggested Protocol for Initial Evaluation Following Hospitalization

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School/Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Injury/Hospitalization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Injury** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name/Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Collaboration between all involved partners- the hospital, school and family- is critical when a child or youth with a significant physical impairment is transitioning between the hospital or rehabilitation setting, the home, and school. The following protocol, with family involvement and permission, is recommended, as these students typically require accommodations and/or modifications in the educational setting.

A timely return to school is beneficial. Schools can customize a student's day to ease the transition and accommodate ongoing medical needs such as pain, fatigue, medication side effects, ongoing medical or therapy appointments, etc.

### **Following Admission to the Hospital**

Once a parent or hospital representative has contacted the school district, a school representative (e.g., P/HD Teacher, special education case manager, or school nurse) is assigned as the contact person by the school administrator. The school representative will:

- Contact parent/guardian(s) to Inquire about their child's condition and determine how and what information will be shared with school community
- Obtain a current release of information if one is not in the school file.

**Note:** A signed release of Information form must always be kept in student's file.

If a recent injury, initiate discussion about the evaluation process

Contact the child's caseworker at the hospital to:

- Initiate discussion about the evaluation process
- Discuss school re-entry issues/questions

Meet with the child's classroom teacher(s) and education staff to inform them of child's condition

Obtain and review current educational records to be shared with hospital team



**After student's condition has stabilized**, the school representative will contact the hospital case manager to:

- Obtain information regarding the child's condition
- Determine if/when to send schoolwork

**Prior to discharge from the hospital**, the school representative/team will:

- Visit with student and hospital/rehabilitation staff
- Determine need for special education evaluation, and initiate if appropriate
- Obtain copies of current hospital evaluations and documentation of the medical diagnosis of the physical impairment
- Arrange and/or conduct school in-service to:

- Provide specific information about the student's condition
- Provide general information about the physical impairment
- Discuss potential modifications, i.e., ramp, wheelchair, transportation, ADL support, classroom support

Contact parent(s) to:

- Determine when/if the child will be getting post-acute rehabilitative care
- Establish a date for return to school

Follow-up with hospital case manager; get updates on discharge plan and needs

Recent injury: Conclude special education evaluation, determine eligibility, and appropriate) develop IEP

Student with an existing IEP: Modify IEP and accommodations to reflect current needs

Develop additional plans as needed (Individual Health Plan, Emergency Care Plan, Emergency Evacuation Plan)

**After the first weeks at school**, the team will:

- Re-evaluate the student's needs and modify IEP accordingly
- Maintain collaboration with parents, teacher(s), and medical personnel