

Guidelines for CHSC Health Assessments

This document provides information to assist Early ACCESS (EA) Regions in partnering with Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) to provide child specific health assessment information. The CHSC Registered Nurse (RN) is available to provide health assessments for any EA Region that does not employ RNs.

Why should a health professional provide a health assessment?

A health professional receives training and education to identify how the child's diagnoses may affect their physical, emotional, and intellectual development, and their personal safety and wellbeing. The CHSC RN is able to provide the IFSP team with information on how the child's health and planned interventions are related and may influence the IFSP.

How are children identified for a needing a health assessment?

EA Service Coordinators (SC) should consider if a child has special health care needs or a diagnosed medical condition that will impact the child's learning. The SC can think about the following questions from The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI):

- Does the child currently need or used medication prescribed by a doctor for a medical, behavioral or other health condition (besides vitamins) which has been or will be taken for at least 12 months?
- Does the child need or use more medical care, mental health or educational services than is usual for most children of the same age and it has or is expected to be received for at least 12 months?
- Is the child limited or prevented in any way in the ability to do things most children of the same age can do and has or is expected to last for at least 12 months?
- Does the child need special therapy such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy which has or is expected to last for at least 12 months?
- Does the child have any kind of emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems for which they need or get treatment or counseling and has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months?

If the answer is yes to 3 or more of these questions, then a health assessment is encouraged.

An IFSP team can request a CHSC RN health assessment if there are less than three questions answered yes if the child is medically complex, has multiple diagnosis, or has been frequently hospitalized.

CAHMI developed the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Screener to identify children with special health needs defined as "those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally". The CSHCN Screener is validated and reliable, more information about this tool is available here:

<https://www.cahmi.org/projects/children-with-special-health-care-needs-screener/>

Steps to Request a CHSC Health Assessment

A health assessment may be requested early in the IFSP process and reviewed annually upon request. The SC should initiate the request no less than two weeks in advance of the initial or annual IFSP

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meeting. If the child has complex medical needs or a change in medical circumstances, a health assessment or update may be completed for a periodic IFSP.

1. Notify parents that the child qualifies for a CHSC Health Assessment.
2. Obtain an Early ACCESS Authorization to Exchange and Release Information form to CHSC/UIHC signed by the parent/guardian.
3. Scan and email or fax a request for a health assessment along with:
 - the child's name and date of birth;
 - the anticipated IFSP date;
 - an Early ACCESS Consent to Exchange/Release Information made out to Child Health Specialty Clinics/University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics; and
 - an EA Consent to Exchange/Release Information with medical providers or hospitals the child has received care from/at. (CHSC can utilize these releases as part of the IFSP team.)

Email to: jennifer-l-jorgensen@uiowa.edu

Fax: 319.678.7248

4. Forward copies of all health related releases* and received health records to the CHSC RN.

*Please note that if medical records must be requested it sometimes takes three to four weeks to obtain the information.

CHSC RN Review of Health Records

The CHSC RN begins the health assessment by accessing pertinent medical records, including but not limited to any admission/discharge summaries from hospitals, history and physical reports, office visit summaries, newborn vision, hearing, and lead screenings, consultation reports from specialists, and notes from ancillary services such as physical therapists, occupational therapists, and dietitians. These records are reviewed to determine how the child's diagnoses may affect their physical, emotional, and intellectual development, and their personal safety and well-being.

If the child receives care within the University of Iowa Health Care System the electronic medical record will be reviewed which does not generate paper copies or reports. The CHSC RN, with appropriate consents to exchange/release information, can often view electronic medical records from other providers through the Care Everywhere portal which allows real time access to medical records.

CHSC RN Health Assessment Documentation

Once the RN has gained a thorough understanding of the child's health status, a health assessment report is compiled to be placed in the child's IFSP by the SC. The report from the RN will include the following:

- Date summary was completed for the IFSP and the Sources of Information utilized including the Early ACCESS RN's name and credentials.
- Diagnosis: A list of the child's primary diagnoses and simple explanation, along with the ICD-10 codes only if included in the health records available.
- Medications: A list of the child's medications and what the medication is used for.



The Iowa Department of Education, as the lead agency, partners with the Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, Child Health Specialty Clinics, and Iowa's Area Education Agencies to provide Early ACCESS services.

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- Allergies: A list of the child's allergies (food, medication, and environmental), signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction, and instructions for what to do in the event of an allergic reaction.
- Medical and safety alerts: A list of health status alerts, threats to the child's safety and wellbeing as well as what to do in the event of an emergency should be listed in this section. These alerts should be related to the child's diagnosis and/or medications and are child specific.
- Immunizations: List specific immunization needed if recommended schedule is not up-to-date.
- Vision: Obtained from the medical reports.
- Hearing: Obtained from the medical reports.
- Nutrition: Document typical eating pattern and any alternative feeding methods such as nutrition supplements or feeding tubes and information about the child's growth including weight and length history.
- Overall Current Health Status: Include a list of health services the child is receiving or upcoming appointments if known. A synopsis of the child's birth history or medical history written in family friendly, easy to understand language will be here.

After the RN health status report is completed the information is emailed to the SC in a word document for review at the IFSP meeting with the family. The SC copies and pastes the information into the sections of the IFSP (and corrects copy and paste errors if they occur).

Transition Health Information

CHSC receives funding to support Early ACCESS activities. If a child needs current health information for transition to an IEP, CHSC does not provide this service. It may be appropriate for the school nurse to assist with this information.

Copies of Health Information from University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

The CHSC RN is not allowed to print and send electronic medical records to the Region/AEA. If a specific report is required a request must be made to UIHC Health Information Management.

Health Information Management
Health Care Support Services Building (HSSB), Suite 100
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52242
Phone: 1-319-356-1719
Email: him-consentform@uiowa.edu
Fax: 1-319-356-3079



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