

Diabetes- Information for parents and carers

You have identified your child as being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Thank you for providing this information.

While the main role of the school is to provide education, we want your child to be relaxed and happy at school and for you to feel confident that your child is being well looked after. The school principal will work with you to prepare an individual health care plan for your child. In some circumstances the principal may need additional support from relevant school authorities to determine the best way for your child's needs to be met. If you are seeking enrolment for your child or if your child is already enrolled there may be a slight delay while arrangements are worked out.

In order to meet your child's needs the school will take the following steps.

STEP 1. Preparation of an individual health care plan

This plan will include:

- Details of your child's diabetes condition
- A photograph of your child
- Actions the school will take to support your child manage their diabetes at school and to minimise the risk of hypos
- Arrangements for school staff to support your child eg. assisting the student in the management of their health condition and making appropriate special provisions
- An emergency response plan
- Your contact details in case of an emergency and those of another person in the event that you are unavailable
- An arrangement for a photograph and information about your child's needs to be placed in agreed positions around the school.
- Your signature together with that of the principal, to indicate details have been read and that you and your child have been consulted in the development of the plan.

Your child's medical practitioner will need to provide information about the nature of the diabetes condition and appropriate medication and emergency treatment.

NOTE: Parents are encouraged to consider times when the student is not in the care or custody of the school and to plan appropriately. For example, travel to and from school and out-of-school-hours (OOSH) care.

STEP 2. Documentation and supply of prescribed treatment

Any treatment required by your child will require a written request to the principal including instructions for the administration. You will need to provide the appropriately labelled medication(s) and consumables to the school (eg blood glucose testing equipment and insulin pen).

You will be asked to prepare your child's diabetes equipment so that it is ready for use each school day.

Should you wish your child to self medicate at school a written request will be required. The principal is responsible for making a judgement about whether a particular student can self administer safely. The principal may wish to seek medical advice on this issue.

In addition, the school has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that self administration is carried out safely. More supervision is required in situations where students are less mature or able and are more reliant on adult assistance.

Where students are able to self medicate, their involvement in developing safe procedures for administration of the prescribed medication will assist in gaining their cooperation. For example, some students may prefer to self medicate in their classroom.

Please advise the school also if your child wears a medical alert bracelet or necklace. The Australian Diabetes Council recommends that students wear one of these.

STEP 3. Communication with your medical practitioner

The school would like your permission to contact your medical practitioner/members of your child's diabetes care team if necessary. You will be given the [authorisation to contact medical practitioner](#) (pdf. 60kb) form to complete.

Acknowledgement. This material has been put together with assistance from the Australian Diabetes Council.