

# Texas Board of Nurse Examiners

## Quick Card Review HB984 (79<sup>th</sup> Regular Session; 2005) School Nurse's Role with Unlicensed Diabetes Care Assistants (UDCAs)

### Introduction

HB984 (79<sup>th</sup> Regular Session; 2005) established requirements for public schools to provide trained staff, who are not licensed healthcare providers, but who have basic knowledge and skills in the care of children with diabetes. These trained but unlicensed people will be referred to as "Unlicensed Diabetes Care Assistants" or UDCAs.

The Board recognizes nurses practicing in school settings may have varying degrees of involvement with UDCA's. The Board has developed the following interpretation of requirements in HB984 to clarify roles of the nurse in relation to UDCAs and the subsequent responsibilities of the nurse in relation to regulatory requirements.

### (1) Role of the School Nurse as UDCA Trainer:

The nurse whose role is to provide training to, but who does not have administrative authority over the UDCA(s):

- ✓ Is responsible for coordinating training of the UDCAs as authorized in HB984;
- ✓ Is responsible for notifying the Principal if any of the staff assigned to be trained as UDCAs are not capable or are not willing to implement the role safely;
- ✓ Is responsible for providing written documentation (completed written test and skills check-off) to the principal for maintenance in each of the UDCAs file;
- ✓ May be responsible for periodic re-training and or periodic assessment of competency of the UDCAs if part of job responsibilities and/or contracted services;
- ✓ Is not responsible for tasks performed by the UDCAs.

**(2) Role of the School Nurse In a Consultative Relationship With the UDCA:**

- ✓ May or may not be responsible for coordinating training of the UDCA's assigned by the principal as authorized in HB984;
- ✓ Is responsible for assuring written documentation of "reportable conditions" is available to the UDCA's, and for maintaining an accurate nursing care plan [individualized health plan (IHP)], incorporating components of the [diabetes management and treatment plan (DMTP)] for each child with diabetes;
- ✓ Is responsible for reporting to the principal if the nurse becomes aware that a UDCA is unwilling or unable to fulfill the duties required;
- ✓ Is not responsible for unforeseen changes in a student's diabetic condition that are not reported to the nurse by the UDCA, student, or responsible adult;
- ✓ Is not responsible for providing oversight or supervision of tasks performed by UDCA's.

**(3) Role of the School Nurse Who is Administratively Responsible for the UDCA(s):**

- ✓ May delegate tasks related to the UDCA's functions as permitted under Rule 225.11 (b) (and Rule 224.6 (4) for emergency situations);
- ✓ Is responsible for assuring written documentation of "reportable conditions" is available to the UDCA's, and for maintaining an accurate nursing care plan [individualized health plan (IHP)], incorporating components of the [diabetes management and treatment plan (DMTP)] for each child with diabetes;
- ✓ Is responsible for coordinating training of the UDCA's. May or may not be responsible for directly training;
- ✓ Responsible for choosing the UDCA's, if not already determined through job description of the UDCA's who report to the school nurse;
- ✓ Responsible for assuring training and competency documentation is maintained in personnel file. Responsible for monitoring and assuring ongoing training and competency skill checks for the UDCA's are accomplished on a periodic and as needed basis;
- ✓ Responsible for taking appropriate action to remediate a UDCA who is unable to complete the didactic and/or clinical skills successfully to become and/or to maintain UDCA status. If remedial efforts fail, or if the UDCA is unwilling to become or continue UDCA status, the nurse is responsible for removing the UDCA and assigning/training a replacement as soon as feasible. Report actions to the principal.