

May 16, 2025

Ref: 1311066

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Nursing Support Services (NSS), with support from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, has updated the approach to supporting students who receive tube/enteral feeding through an act of delegation at school. This is to ensure the nurses who support this program are practicing in accordance with their professional licensure requirements related to delegation. This updated approach will continue to offer families as much flexibility as possible to make decisions about how their child can best be supported. Detailed information is available on the BC Children's Hospital website. Information has also been shared directly with school partners.

The NSS program must ensure that nurses are able to comply with requirements of the *Health Professions Act* (HPA), nursing regulations, and bylaws and practice standards of the BC College of Nurses and Midwives in relation to the performance or delegation of restricted activities such as tube/enteral feeds. To ensure nurses are supported to meet these requirements, the NSS program has developed policies and documentation which outline the different factors nurses need to consider when determining when and how they can safely delegate restricted activities.

For the 2025-26 school year, families will be required to obtain an updated order form from their most responsible prescriber, which includes details regarding flushes and hydration. This order form must be completed at the start of each new school year. If the most responsible prescriber has ordered a home blenderized tube feed, families will be required to provide a list of each of the meals to be given at school including all ingredients for each meal. This order form ensures the nurse knows what is being given to the student, which is required by their professional regulation as they are responsible for both the intended and unintended outcomes of care. Certain tube feeds must be sent "ready-to-serve" and labelled/named in a consistent way so that school staff can readily verify the contents at the time of administration. Lastly, a waiver/consent form will be required for all families who choose to participate in NSS school-based services.

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Families with clinical questions or concerns specific to their child should contact their local NSS nurse coordinator for more information. Families with questions or concerns specific to the nursing practice standards/regulation should contact BC College of Nurses and Midwives.

Sincerely,

Eugene Johnson

Executive Director

Provincial Services Branch

Health System Policy and Oversight Division