

Who is eligible for Nursing Support Services?

To receive Nursing Support Services the child/youth must meet all of the following criteria:

- ▶ Under 19 years of age for in home support and in the school setting to the end of the school year the youth turns 19.
- ▶ A resident of the Province of British Columbia.
- ▶ Has a care need, which requires the delegation of nursing tasks to non-nurse care providers or requires the judgement and skill of a nurse in the absence of the parent in the home, or select community settings.
- ▶ Has a parent/guardian who is responsible for the child/youth's day to day care and consents to the NSS Coordinator consulting with other professionals involved in the child/youth's care.
- ▶ Has a physician who is familiar with child/youth's condition and care requirements who indicates that the child/youth's condition is stable and can be safely cared for in the selected community settings.
- ▶ Has a local physician able to provide required medical care, consultation and write doctor's orders for the child/youth.

NOTE: Eligibility for Nursing Support Services is subject to reassessment. Children or parents who are in receipt of an insurance settlement or court award are not eligible for direct nursing care benefits.

Who do I call to obtain additional information or make a referral?

Anyone can refer a child to Nursing Support Services. You can contact the program in your community through the local health unit in your regional health authority. The number can be found in the blue pages of your local telephone directory.

For additional information you can also visit the ministry's web site at:

www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/nursing.htm



Photo courtesy of the Queen Alexandra Foundation and Frances Litman Photography Inc. (www.franceslitman.com)

nursing support services

children and family development



What is Nursing Support Services?

Nursing Support Services (NSS) assists parents and caregivers to help children with special health care needs lead active, healthy lives in their communities, while facilitating safe, consistent care and appropriate health supports.

This program is available to British Columbia's children and youth, from birth to 19 years old, who require specialized nursing services. NSS is delivered by the regional health authorities.

How does this service work?

When NSS Coordinators receive referrals, they contact the child or youth's parent/guardian and arrange a visit to complete a nursing assessment. The assessment information assists with determining the child's eligibility for NSS and the most appropriate way to provide the nursing care. The NSS Coordinator then works cooperatively with the child/youth, family and other involved care providers to develop a plan.

What services are provided?

Nursing services include assessment, planning and monitoring of care and may involve:

- ▶ information regarding care of children/youth with special health care needs.
- ▶ consultation regarding community based care and resources.
- ▶ direct nursing care: coordination of planned, intermittent periods of respite to parents/guardians by a registered or licensed practical nurse, when the skill and judgement of a nurse is required to offer complex supports such as home dialysis, tracheostomy, ventilator and end of life care.
- ▶ delegated nursing care: training and ongoing monitoring of non nurse caregivers to provide special aspects of a child's care, such as gastrostomy tube meals, blood glucose monitoring, clean intermittent catheterization and oral suctioning.
- ▶ eligibility assessment for the At Home Program, which provides medical and respite benefits.
- ▶ collaboration with families and other community service providers, such as social workers, physiotherapists and teachers, to facilitate provision of appropriate services and supports.

Where are these services provided?

Nursing Support Services provide direct nursing care to children and youth with special health care needs in their homes, schools or child-care settings. In most circumstances, delegated care is provided only in schools or child-care settings.



Who covers the cost of these services?

There is no cost to families for nursing support services through this program. Children and youth who are eligible for Nursing Support Services may also qualify for other programs offered by the ministry.

