

An Introduction to School Health Support Services

- School Health Support Services were implemented in 1984 as result of an agreement between three provincial ministries; Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Services were developed to allow children with health needs that required medical or therapeutic interventions to attend school and participate fully in their school program
- SHSS are separate from In-home services and can only be provided during school hours in the school environment: in the classroom, on the playground, on fieldtrips and, if assessed by the Care Coordinator to be required, on transportation to and from school
- Total number of nursing hours assigned is based on care needs assessed by the Care Coordinator in collaboration with child's family, health care team and educational team
- SHSS hours cannot be used at home if the child is ill and unable to attend school
- SHSS hours cannot be used to help a child get ready for school i.e. dressed, bathed, fed; if the nurse must travel with the child on the bus/van, minimal preparation to get onto the bus is allowable i.e. putting on coat, taking to vehicle
- Services are funded completely through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care via a valid Health Card Number
- All SHSS are provided according to the Ministry of Education Policy and Program Memorandum 81 that outlines respective responsibilities for each of the three Ministries that collaborated to develop the program
- PPM 81 includes two addendums: one related to speech services and a 1989 Ministry of Health memorandum that clarifies administration of catheterization and suctioning