

In-School Emergencies for School Nurses

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In this talk we will review basic evaluation of common emergencies which may present in a school setting. We will review specific tools and algorithms for assessing patient history and physical findings, and for triage and treatment of emergent, urgent, and non-urgent medical situations. Specifically we will touch on abdominal pain, allergy/anaphylaxis, fever and contagious illness, lacerations and avulsions, dental trauma, fractures, and heat-related illness.

Although it is beyond the scope of a school nurse's job to diagnose, it is critical that school nurses have strong evaluative skills in order to correctly triage potential medical emergencies. You may not officially diagnose a child, but you must have an idea of what is going on in order to direct that child appropriately to timely care.

Protocols and algorithms are invaluable tools in emergency evaluation and treatment.

The following link is one of the best manuals I have found for emergency evaluation and treatment in the school setting. I suggest that participants read through this manual and print out a copy to bring to the talk. Much of my talk is extracted directly from this manual, and our case evaluations will make more sense if you have these algorithms with you.

http://www.luhs.org/depts/emsc/Schl_Man.pdf

This site is particularly complete regarding dental trauma:

<http://dentalresource.org/topic50trauma.html>