

What Information Should I Report to the Nurse?

Nurses in the DD field have two distinct roles as previously discussed. The first role is as a resource for the team to assure that there is adequate information for the team to assure a reasonable level of health and safety. The second role is as a medically trained professional to assure quality healthcare. The two roles sound similar, but they are very different. Therefore, the information which needs to be shared will be used in two very different ways and there are expectations about what will be shared for the two different roles.

Information the Nurse needs to be a Resource:

Each individual is unique in their health needs and their skill in maintaining a general state of health. The information to be shared with a nurse is equally unique to the individual in services and to the individual reporting the information. Some Healthcare Coordinators, Family Living Providers, and Direct Support Staff will have more knowledge regarding medical concerns, and the individual, than others. They may not need to access the nurse as frequently. Other persons may have a limited relationship with the individual and his/her health needs. These persons would be expected to access the nurse more regularly. The general guideline is to access the nurse as a resource when you have a concern that you do not know how to address, or if you have a general question you cannot answer. This information sharing is very individualized for both the individual in services and the person who is reporting the concern.

Additionally, the nurse is a resource for interpreting, facilitating and monitoring of health concerns. The Healthcare Coordinator, Family Living Provider, or Direct Support Staff may have to interpret a medical order, but get confused. **CALL THE NURSE.** The Healthcare Coordinator, Family Living Provider, or Direct Support Staff may have difficulty getting an appointment set up for follow-up. **CALL THE NURSE.** The Healthcare Coordinator, Family Living Provider, or Direct Support Staff may have been told to watch for signs and symptoms of a specific situation, but they don't really understand what these symptoms would look like. **CALL THE NURSE.** This is not an exhaustive list, but it is clear. If there is an expectation on the Healthcare Coordinator, Family Living Provider, or Direct Support Staff which they are unable to complete unassisted, they should **CALL THE NURSE.**

Information the Nurse needs as a Medically Trained Professional:

The nurse should be notified of healthcare concerns as they appear, to assess, educate, train and monitor changes in an individual's health status. Copies of all medical paperwork are essential to be provided to the nurse including but not limited to; prescriptions, annual physical, lab reports, physician reports, specialized clinic reports, dental notes and nutritional evaluations.