

School-Based Health Center Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: If I have insurance and a Primary Care Physician, can my student still see the Nurse Practitioner?

A: YES!!! This program is to try and keep children in school, and save parents from having to leave work or home to bring a child to their doctor. Referrals are not required.

Q: Will you bill my insurance and will I have to pay a co-pay?

A: MaineCare, some Aetna, Anthem and Cigna will be billed. No referrals will be required, and no co-pays will be charged. We will accept any payments we get from insurance companies. If we do successfully bill your insurance we will refund your \$20.00 enrollment fee.

Q: What kinds of services does the Nurse Practitioner provide?

A: She is a Family Nurse Practitioner, and has lots of experience diagnosing and treating. She is able to diagnose and prescribe medications, as well as order tests. Tests we can perform here are: strep tests, hemoglobin, pregnancy, urine, and blood sugar. Other tests that need to go to a lab will go to Midcoast hospital and they WILL charge your insurance for the test. That applies for x-rays as well. These may be done at your choice of facility.

Q: Do you provide mental health services?

A: We have Sweetser counselors here in our office 3 days per week for those students who cannot access mental health care outside of school. They will be seen during a study hall. Sweetser does bill insurance. We have some grant money from United Way for those students with no insurance or high deductibles and or Co-pays.

Q: Will you communicate with my PCP? (primary Care physician)

A: Yes, whenever necessary we will keep your PCP updated on care we provide.

Q: Can the School-Based Health Center or the Nurse Practitioner be my PCP?

A: No, we are not able to act as a Primary Care Physician, but can assist you in finding one if needed.

Q: Do you have medicine at the school-based health center that you can give my child?

A: Yes, we have many over the counter medications that we can give your child, and also have some prescription samples as well.

Q: How is the school nurse different from the Nurse Practitioner?

A: The school nurse can only dispense Tylenol and Advil. She cannot diagnose and treat, or diagnose and prescribe medications. The school nurse is here every day and any child can access her care as always.