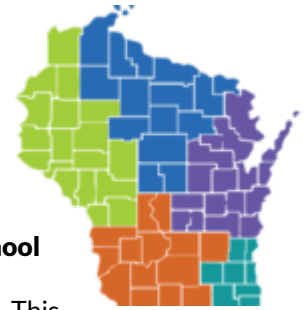


HEALTH TRANSITION WISCONSIN



Health Transition Wisconsin Creates Webpage Dedicated to Wisconsin School Nurses

Healthcare Transition is the change from pediatric to adult healthcare services. This transition typically takes place between the ages of 12 and 26 years. This webpage offers tools, resources, and trainings to help Wisconsin School Nurses provide best practice transition care to their patients with developmental disabilities or special healthcare needs. [Link to webpage.](#)

What is Health Care Transition?
The Importance of School Nurses

Tim Markle, Director of the [Wisconsin Youth Health Transition Initiative](#)

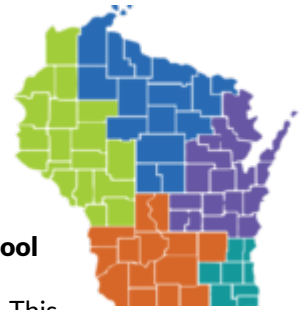
First, let me introduce myself. In addition to my statewide work around Health Care Transition and integrating Health Care Transition into the lives of youth and young adults with special health care needs and disabilities, I am the parent of 26-year-old autistic young man. He has been in-charge of his health care for a few years and is still learning about how to be in-charge of his health care given his unique physical and mental health profile. He is not that different from the students you support in Wisconsin schools – students with autism, other disabilities, chronic health conditions, etc. Some of them have an IEP or a 504 plan, and others don't. But they all need support to live a healthy, self-determined lives as they become adults.

Second, let me introduce what we mean by Health Care Transition (HCT). At a presentation at the Wisconsin Association of School Nurses Conference in 2023, Julie Hajewski (MSN, ANP-BC, APNP) and myself referred to this core definition “*HCT is the process of moving from a child to an adult model of health care with or without a transfer to a new clinician.*” [Got Transition](#), a national leader in Health Care Transition, breaks this down into three parts: **Preparing** (learning skills, building knowledge), **Transfer of Care** (new PCP, specialists, therapists, etc.), **Integrated** (successfully utilizing appropriate health care resources as an adult). Health Care Transition can be a complicated, multi-layered process and is often one of the last parts of transition to be considered by youth and families.

Third, let me affirm what you are already doing! You are already the trusted expert providing guidance, support, and expertise between the educational world and the medical world. You are already caring for students with disabilities, health care needs, chronic conditions, etc. When we look at Health Care Transition, you have a unique and important role in preparing your students to successfully manage their health care (as appropriate). During the 2024-2025 school year, the Youth Health Transition Initiative (YHTI) is partnering with Louise Wilson, DPI School Nurse Consultant, to provide resources to grow your knowledge and your confidence to help your students' successfully transition into adulthood.

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Tools to Support Health Care Transition

Tim Markle, Director of the Wisconsin Youth Health Transition Initiative

Last month, we provided some introductions, to myself, and to Health Care Transition (HCT), and we acknowledged the important role school nurses play in helping students become healthy adults. This month I want to provide a quick overview of some tools, available to you, to help support your work in transitioning students into the world of Adult Health Care.

First, we know the education systems loves assessments! Our national partner, [Got Transition](#), has developed a [Health Care Readiness Assessment for Students](#). The assessment can be filled out as part of IEP transition meetings or to can guide school nurses in helping students work on Health Care Transition Goals. The assessment goes through important areas of health (appointments, medications, emergencies, etc.) and allows the student to mark “Yes”; “I want to learn”; or “No”. We know not all students will master each task, but the assessment gives a great baseline indicator of knowledge and provides starting points for focused learning. The assessment is also available in [Spanish](#).

Second, we want to encourage School Nurses to be a part of the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) as appropriate, especially during Transition. Got Transition has offered [Sample Goals](#) that build off of the Health Care Transition Readiness Assessment. The Goals are written to be incorporated into an IEP, but they can also be goals school nurses can work on with their students and families apart from the IEP.

Third, is not a tool, but a consideration. Consider what health plans you may have in place for a student. Are there pieces of that plan that would be appropriate for the student to know about, or that they might have to be in charge of, once they are out of high school? Where can you help the student to become the leader of their health team? How can you help them be knowledgeable about their unique body and mind and be able to communicate their health needs? Thank you for all you are doing!

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