

## **Other Health Disabilities: Information for Staff and Parents**

*The following information was taken from the MDE OHD Companion Manual*

Minnesota schools are serving students with an extraordinary range of chronic or acute health conditions that may be either congenital or acquired. Students with health conditions may have associated characteristics or symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Some of the health conditions are progressive and some have associated symptoms that vary in intensity from day to day.

Medications, treatments, therapies, frequent doctor appointments, and repeated hospitalizations can impact the student's ability to learn and function at school. Even relatively mild health conditions can significantly impact academic, behavioral, social, or emotional functioning. A student with such a condition may be considered for special education services under the Other Health Disabilities (OHD) category. **However, when the condition is medically managed, and the student can successfully participate in school, then the student may not need special education services under OHD.**

Here are some guidelines to use when determining eligibility using the OHD criteria:

- A medical diagnosis alone is NOT sufficient to determine eligibility for special education services.
- Students with medical diagnoses should NOT automatically be considered eligible for OHD. Teams are advised to focus on the student's presenting problems, in conjunction with a comprehensive evaluation to determine eligibility.
- Students with some medical diagnoses may demonstrate educational needs that may lead teams to consider eligibility in other categories (Developmental Cognitive Disability – cognitive, Emotional or Behavioral Disorder – behavioral, Specific Learning Disability – severe academic problems, Speech & Language – communication).
- Teams must establish and document a link between the chronic or acute health condition and its adverse effect on a pupil's educational performance in order for a student to be determined eligible for OHD.
- When determining eligibility for children birth through age 6 who have been diagnosed with a syndrome or condition known to hinder normal development, please see Minnesota Rule 3525.1350, Early Childhood Special Education and refer to other documents within the OHD manual.

### Typical Chronic or Acute Health Concerns

The following is a list of chronic or acute health conditions that can impact a student's functioning in the school setting. **This is not considered a complete or exhaustive list.**

<p><b>Cardiovascular Conditions And Heart Disease</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congenital Heart Disease/Heart Transplants</li> <li>• Rheumatic Fever</li> <li>• Sickle Cell Anemia</li> <li>• Hemophilia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hematologic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancer</li> <li>• Diabetes</li> <li>• Hemophilia</li> <li>• Sickle Cell Anemia</li> <li>• Lead Poisoning</li> </ul>	<p><b>Injuries/Diseases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquired brain injury             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anoxia</li> <li>○ Brain infection</li> <li>○ Brain tumor (including chemotherapy radiation effects, or surgery)</li> <li>○ Cerebral hemorrhage or stroke</li> <li>○ Lead poisoning</li> <li>○ Static encephalopathy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Burns</li> <li>• Cancer</li> <li>• Nephritis</li> <li>• Stroke</li> </ul>	<p><b>Immune Deficiency Disorders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)</li> <li>• Lyme Disease</li> <li>• Lupus Erythematosus</li> <li>• Chronic Fatigue Syndrome</li> <li>• Fibromyalgia</li> </ul>
<p><b>Growth Disorders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malnutrition/Growth Delay</li> </ul>	<p><b>Postural/Skeletal Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Respiratory Disorders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cystic Fibrosis</li> <li>• Lung transplants</li> <li>• Asthma</li> <li>• Bronchopulmonary</li> <li>• Dysplasia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Neurobiological</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)</li> <li>• Seizure Disorders (Epilepsy)</li> <li>• Tourette’s Syndrome</li> <li>• Neurofibromatosis</li> </ul>

**Please note:** A medical diagnosis **alone** is NOT sufficient to determine eligibility for special education services. Not all medical diagnoses are chronic or acute health conditions. Some of these diagnoses may be considered in other special education disability categories depending on the presenting problems. Example: a student with ADHD may have additional diagnoses and significant acting out behavior and authority issues (EBD).