


HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

*California Common Core Curricula
for Child Welfare Workers*


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Competencies

- Assess medical health care needs and current health care status
- Gather and evaluate medical information for foster care youth
- Practice responding to health concerns with consideration of cultural values, issues of disparity and unique vulnerabilities of youth in foster care, while applying child welfare policy and current best practices

2



Learning Objectives

- Please see Knowledge and Values Objectives in your materials

Outcomes

Well-Being Outcome 3

- Children receive services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

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Agenda


- Overview of health and disease for foster care youth
- Gathering the medical history
- Introduction to well child/teen care
- Identification and monitoring of chronic health issues
- Responding to urgent medical problems

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Most children enter foster care in a poor state of health.
(Simms, 2000)

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Your Role:



Oversee the total **well-being** of foster care youth

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7 year old Pablito with daily stomach pain, frequently missing school

Pablito's Stomach Pain

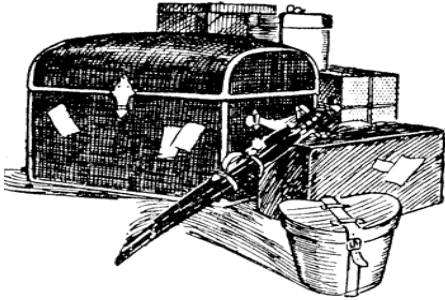
Question 2A

What are possible causes for Pablito's stomach aches?

Vulnerabilities affecting foster care health

- Physical health problems
- Mental health issues
- Abuse and neglect
- Legacy of poverty
- Racial disparities
- Reactions to displacement
- Loss of continuity of care

Baggage



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Racial Disparities & Poverty Lead to:

- Higher infant mortality
- Higher incidence of premature Infants
- Higher incidence of many chronic medical conditions

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Chronic Conditions Linked to Foster Care Youth:

- Asthma
- Obesity
- Severe Dental Disease
- Poor Nutrition
- Eating Disorders

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Pablito's Stomach Pain

Question 2B

What are possible strategies you might immediately recommend to improve Pablito's school attendance? What might you try with a child in your own family?

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Everybody Needs:

Care
Comfort
Connection
Security



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Holistic Health Includes:

- Physical health
- Emotional well-being
- Social/familial relationships
- Spiritual/Cultural connection

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Pablito's Stomach Pain

Question 2C

How would you begin to solve the mystery of his complaint? What are possible sources of information?

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Getting a Good Medical History...



- What Is It?
- Where Do I Get It?
- What do I do with it?

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Medical History – What is it?

- Well-care
- Recent illnesses
- Allergies
- Immunization record
- Chronic illness
- Medications
- Hospitalizations
- Birth history

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Medical History: Where to Get It

Family should provide at time of removal:

- Medical history
- List of medicines
- Names of doctors
- Allergy information
- Immunization card

Documentation from Medical Providers

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Obtaining Consent for Records

- Signed Release from Biologic Parent
- HIPAA
- HIV
- Court Orders

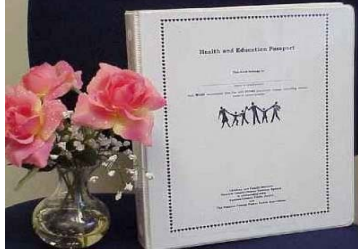
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How to Use Your Foster Care Public Health Nurses

- Help obtain medical records
- Help you interpret medical records

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The Health Passport



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BOTTOM LINE:

You are in charge and responsible for
child's health and well-being

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Activity 3A

A Role Play

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Break Time

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Activity 4A

Lisa goes for a check up

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Lisa goes for a check up

The new foster parent calls you and asks:

How soon should Lisa get a check up?

How would you respond and why?

27

Lisa goes for a check up

What should you expect from a complete "check up"?

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CHDP Periodicity Table A Guide for:

What to do and when

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Introduction to Child Health Disability Program (CHDP)

- Medical History
- Physical Exam
- Nutrition screening
- Hearing and Vision
- Developmental/Educational Progress
- Dental health
- Lab tests and Immunizations

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Introduction to
Child Health Disability Program

PM160
Form



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Assessing Teens: HEADSS

- **Home** – coping with placement
- **Education** – goals and needs
- **Activities** – peers, dating, exercise
- **Drugs**, alcohol, tobacco
- **Sexuality** – practices and disease risk
- **Suicide** and depression

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Stretch

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Introduction to Chronic Care



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Introduction to Chronic Care

- Need for continuity of medical care
- Long term follow up and monitoring
- Coordination of multiple services
- Need for advocacy

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How to Use Foster Care Public Health Nurses

- Help obtain medical records
- Help you interpret medical records
- Assist with follow-up, referrals and monitoring**
- Be a strong advocate and educator**

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Children with Special Health Care Needs

Each County has Unique Provisions to Manage:

- Sick Infants
- Complex Medical Problems
- Youth with Medical Disabilities
- Technology Dependent Youth

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Some Special Problems in Foster Care Youth

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- HIV
- Premature infants
- Brain injury

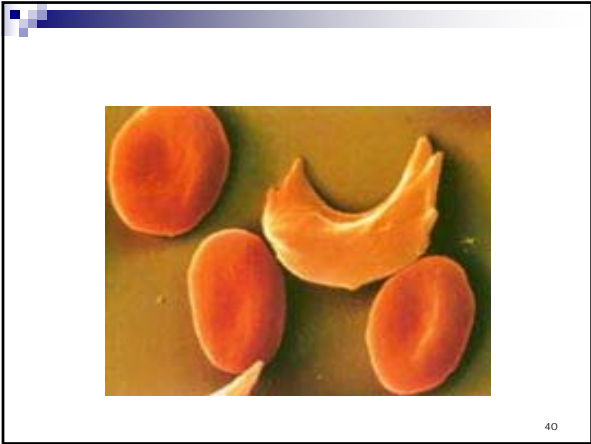


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Activity 6A


Jason's story

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By doing your job.....
you may just
save a life.



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