



Ted Strickland, Governor
Deborah S. Delisle, Superintendent of Public Instruction

To: Superintendents of City, Exempted Villages, Local and County School Districts, Community Schools, County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Ohio Central School and Department of Youth Services Buckeye United School District

From: Kathe Shelby, Ph.D., Director, Office for Exceptional Children 

Date: February 10, 2010

Subject: Defining Other Health Impairment-Major and Minor

For purposes of special education reporting and funding, the Ohio Revised Code sections: §3306.11 (A), §3317.013 and §3317.02 make a distinction regarding “other health impaired-major” and “other health impaired-minor”. The superintendent of public instruction is required to issue a listing of conditions where a substantial majority of cases fall within the definition of “medically fragile child” which is defined as:

1. The child requires the services of a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine at least once a week due to the instability of the child’s medical condition;
2. The child requires the services of a registered nurse on a daily basis;
3. The child is at risk of institutionalization in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded.

The following conditions would also meet the definition of “medically fragile child”. A child with any of these conditions would be reported in EMIS as **other health impaired – major**.

- When a student has a tracheotomy
- When a student has a central IV line
- When a student is on a ventilator
- When a student requires tube feedings
- When a student requires percussion and drainage
- When a student requires suctioning
- When a student is oxygen dependent

For a child with a disability that was identified prior to July 1, 2001, that child may be identified as “**other health impaired-major**” if the child’s condition meets the definition of “other health impaired” established in rules adopted by the state board of education prior to July 1, 2001, and if either of the following apply:

1. The child is identified as having a medical condition that is among those listed above; or
2. A school district superintendent petitions the superintendent of public instruction for a determination that a child is a medically fragile child.

A child may be identified as “**other health impaired-minor**” if the child’s condition meets the definition of “other health impaired” established in rules adopted by the state board of education prior to July 1, 2001, but the child’s condition does not meet either of the conditions that must be met for the definition of “medically fragile child” specified previously in this memorandum.

If you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact our office at (877) 644-6338.