



# Liver Transplant

## An overview for school professionals

**Liver Transplant** can be necessary in children for various genetic or acquired conditions such as biliary atresia, alagille syndrome, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, hemochromatosis, hepatitis, Wilson disease.

### **What type of support plan is appropriate for a student who has had a liver transplant?**

Students who have had a liver transplant may need either a 504 plan or an IEP. Most children who have received a liver transplant will be adequately supported through a 504 plan. However, some conditions associated with liver failure may cause hepatic encephalopathy, a dangerous buildup of ammonia in the brain. If the child sustained brain damage prior to transplant, an IEP may be needed to address changes in cognitive abilities.

### **What accommodations are necessary for a student who has received a liver transplant?**

#### **MEDICAL:**

- Following a transplant, your student will be on medications that suppress his/her immune system and make him/her more at risk for infection.
  - If your student has a fever  $>101.5^{\circ}$  F, diarrhea, or vomiting, please notify mom or dad.
  - If any other students are sick in the classroom, or if other students have chicken pox, his/her parents should be notified.
- He/she may not have grapefruit or grapefruit juice because it may weaken the effectiveness of his medications.
- Because he is a transplant patient, if he is seen by the school nurse for fever or pain, he can only receive Tylenol. He should not receive Ibuprofen (or another NSAID).
- He should be allowed and encouraged to drink water frequently as this is important for renal protection with the medications after transplant. He should not be restricted from bathroom breaks as he should be drinking frequently.

***\*Regarding immunizations:** Please note that a liver transplant patient cannot receive live vaccinations. They should be exempt from requiring any live vaccines. They can receive dead (in attenuated) vaccines such as the flu vaccine administered yearly. Please note, transplant patients should not receive the intranasal flu vaccine as this is a live vaccine. Any questions regarding vaccinations should be directed towards the patient's doctor's office.*

#### **ACADEMICS:**

- Intermittent hospital/homebound instruction *\*when necessary\** – please inform parent of homebound procedures, including: a contact person when homebound is needed, a schedule for accessing homebound that can work around the patient's medical appointments
- Suspension of attendance requirements for absences due to medical appointments and illness
- Partial-day attendance when necessary

- Modified assignments: shorten assignments to emphasize mastery and to limit repetition during extended absences
- Extra time to make up missed assignments
- A system for providing advance assignments to the parent or student for absences due to planned medical appointments
- A system for providing make-up assignments in a timely manner when student is absent due to illness or hospitalization
- Extra set of textbooks for home.
- No contact sports.

The list of accommodations above is not meant to be exhaustive; each student's unique needs will dictate the appropriate accommodations to be listed in his/her 504 plan.