



Heart Transplant

An overview for school professionals

Heart transplants can be necessary for children with cardiomyopathy, severe coronary artery disease, and genetic or acquired conditions that affect the heart.

What type of support plan is appropriate for a student who has had a heart transplant?

Students who have had a heart transplant should have a 504 plan or an IEP in place. Most children who have received a heart transplant will be adequately supported through a 504 plan. All teachers who provide instruction for your student should be made aware of these accommodations.

What accommodations are necessary for a student who has received a heart transplant?

Medically:

1. Following a transplant, the student will be on medications that suppress his/her immune system and make him/her more at risk for infection.
2. If s/he has a fever >101.5F, diarrhea, or vomiting, please notify mom or dad.
3. If any other students are sick in the classroom, or if other students have chicken pox, his/her parents should be notified.
4. Because s/he is a transplant patient, s/he can only receive Tylenol for fever or pain if seen by the school nurse. S/he cannot receive Ibuprofen or another NSAID.
5. S/he should be allowed and encouraged to drink water frequently as this is important for renal protection with the medications after transplant. S/he should not be restricted from bathroom breaks as s/he should be drinking water frequently.

**Regarding immunizations: Please note that a heart transplant patient cannot receive live vaccinations. They should be exempt from requiring any live vaccines. They can receive dead vaccines (in attenuated) vaccines such as the flu vaccine administered yearly. Transplant patients should not receive the intranasal flu vaccine as this is a live vaccine.*

Academically:

1. Intermittent hospital/homebound instruction **when necessary**--please inform parent of homebound procedures, including a contact person when homebound when needed, a schedule for assessing homebound that can work around the patient's medical appointments.
2. Suspension of attendance requirements for absences due to medical appointments and illness.
3. Partial day attendance when necessary.
4. Modified assignments --shorten assignments to emphasize mastery and to limit repetition during extended absences.
5. Extra time to make up missed assignments.

6. A system for providing advance assignments to the guardian/parent or student for absences due to planned medical appointments.
7. A system for providing make-up assignments in a timely manner when the student is absent due to illness or hospitalization.
8. Extra set of textbooks for home.
9. No contact sports; however, physical education exercise is encouraged. Please allow for a proper warm-up period, cool-down period, and rest breaks as needed.

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.