

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR HYDROCEPHALUS WITH VENTRICULOPERITONEAL SHUNT

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____
Parent/Guardian: _____ Ph: (H) _____
Ph: (W) _____
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Ph: (W) _____

Hydrocephalus is an imbalance in the production and absorption of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the body, resulting in an enlargement of the fluid-filled spaces in and around the brain. If left untreated, this condition can cause permanent brain damage.

Hydrocephalus is treated with a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt, which decreases the pressure on the brain by draining off the CSF. In most cases the shunt is passed from one of the lateral ventricles in the brain, under the skin and down to the abdominal cavity, the shunt may go to the heart. There is a possibility of a shunt malfunction and the student should be monitored for the following symptoms:

Signs and Symptoms of Hydrocephalus Shunt Malfunction/Infection:

- Headache/stiff neck
- Irritability
- Vomiting
- School problems/learning difficulties
- Difficulty with balance or coordination
- Crossing eyes/difficulty raising eyes
- Lethargy
- Sleepiness
- Visual blurring
- Seizures
- Swelling along the shunt
- Personality changes
- Decrease in sensory or motor functions
- Upper extremity tremors

Interventions for shunt malfunction/infection:

- Remain calm
- Report symptoms to Nurse/Office
- Report any head injury immediately
- Document details

****DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 911 IF ABOVE SYMPTOMS OCCUR**