

**PILLAR SCHOOLS**  
**2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Pillar High School**

71-77 Okner Parkway  
Livingston, NJ 07039  
(973) 535-1999  
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**VP SHUNT HEALTH CARE PLAN**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

A **Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt (VP Shunt)** is an implanted device used to drain extra cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) that circulates around the brain and spine. It is most often used to treat a condition known as hydrocephalus. Without a release of such excess fluid, pressure in the brain will increase and can cause permanent brain damage. 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. Shunts can be programmable, meaning the healthcare provider can adjust how much fluid is drained by the shunt. There is a possibility of shunt malfunction; therefore, it is important for the student to be monitored for the following symptoms.

**SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF SHUNT MALFUNCTION/ INFECTION:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Increased irritability/Restlessness</li> <li>• Decreased appetite</li> <li>• Nausea/vomiting</li> <li>• Abdominal pain</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> <li>• Gait disturbance (different than baseline)</li> <li>• Crossing eyes/ difficulty raising eyes</li> <li>• Lethargy (sleepiness)</li> <li>• Periods of confusion</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision changes</li> <li>• Photophobia</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Swelling or redness along the shunt</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Personality changes</li> <li>• Decrease in sensory or motor functions</li> <li>• Upper and lower extremity tremors</li> <li>• Change in vital signs</li> <li>• <b>Other:</b> _____</li> </ul> |
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**NURSING ACTIONS/ INTERVENTIONS:**

- |  |  |
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| <p><b>parent if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any above noted symptoms occur.</li> <li>• Head injury or trauma occurs following a minor impact (lightly hit with a ball, light fall and hits head, etc.) and student is asymptomatic of shunt malfunction.</li> <li>• Call 911 if school is unable to contact parent or parent is unable to pick up child.</li> <li>• <b>Other:</b></li> </ul> | <p><b>if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student has a seizure in school, and he/she has NO previous seizure history to date.</li> <li>• Vital signs become unstable.</li> <li>• Level of consciousness changes.</li> <li>• If shunt malfunction is suspected and unable to contact parent or parent is unable to pick up child.</li> <li>• If minor head injury or trauma occurs and student exhibits any signs of shunt malfunction.</li> <li>• If major impact or significant trauma occurs to head or if impact to head is unwitnessed.</li> <li>• <b>911 will be called per nursing discretion for any medical emergency.</b></li> <li>• <b>Other:</b></li> </ul> |
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**RESTRICTIONS:** ☐ No Restrictions ☐ The following restrictions are required: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_