

Do-It-Yourself 'Looping' for Type-1 Diabetes Care in Schools

There has been an increase in requests from families to use a new method for managing their child's type-1 diabetes in the school setting called 'do-it-yourself (DIY) looping'. To assist in preparing for the upcoming school year, here is some information about DIY looping for type-1 diabetes care.

What does DIY looping mean?

Some children wear two independent medical devices, an insulin pump and a Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM), which do not directly communicate with one another. DIY looping is when these two independent devices communicate through a self-built phone application, that allows the changing of basal insulin automatically (up to every 5 minutes), overriding the pre-programmed settings on the pump.

Is DIY looping health Canada approved?

No, DIY looping is not Health Canada approved.

What does this mean for DIY looping in schools?

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Child Care have developed the [Provincial Standards: Supporting Students with Type 1 Diabetes in the School Setting](#). These provincial standards help create a safe and supportive environment for students with diabetes, by describing the roles and responsibilities of parents/guardians, school administrators, and health authorities.

In the K-12 education system under delegation of care provided by Nursing Support Services (NSS), non-medical school staff follow a set type-1 diabetes delegated care plan to help support children with their diabetes care needs while at school. This optional delegated care plan is provided under a nurse's license and must use practices approved by Health Canada.

As DIY looping is currently not approved by Health Canada, NSS is unable to provide support through delegated care.

For families who choose to use DIY looping during school hours, students need to be independent in their own type-1 diabetes management and will not be eligible for an NSS delegated care plan.

Need more information?

Questions or concerns can be directed to the Ministry of Health Patient and Client Relations at 1 (833) 552-1891 or hlth.health@gov.bc.ca.