



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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March 10, 2015

**TIME SENSITIVE:
Please share with school
physician(s) and school
nurse(s).**

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

FROM: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services and Career Readiness

SUBJECT: Student-Athlete Cardiac Assessment Professional Development Module

As a follow-up to an April 29, 2014 broadcast memo, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the availability of the Student-Athlete Cardiac Assessment professional development module (PD module) required by the *Scholastic Student-Athlete Safety Act (SS-ASA)* (*N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7*). The PD module can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/health/services/athlete/PDModule.shtml>.

The SS-ASA requires that:

- The PD module be completed by the physician, advanced practice nurse (APN), or physician assistant (PA) who performs a student-athlete's annual physical examination prior to the student's participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad in grades six through 12 (*N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7*);
- Upon performing a physical examination, the physician, APN or PA shall sign the certification statement on the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (PPE) form attesting to the completion of the PD module. This certification can be found on page four of the PPE form, and is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/records/athleticphysicalsform.pdf> (*N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41d*);
- A contract of employment between a school district and a school physician appointed pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1* shall include a statement of assurance that the school physician has completed the PD module and read the *Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes* pamphlet (*N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1.1*); and
- Each board of education and charter school or nonpublic school governing authority must retain the original signed certification to attest to the qualification of the health care provider (HCP) to perform the PPE (*N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41d*). The certificate may be obtained at the conclusion of the PD module by downloading and printing when prompted.

You are encouraged to provide the Information Fact Sheet (link provided in the broadcasts) for parents/guardians and student-athletes, to ensure a thorough understanding of the new requirements

and not delay a student's participation on an athletic team or squad. There is a placeholder highlighted on the bottom of the page for you to include district contact information.

Effective with the start of the 2015-2016 school year, HCPs are required to complete the PD module before performing any student-athlete's physical examination. This physical examination must be conducted before a student-athlete can participate on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, including the first official practice of the season. For those students who have already received a physical examination that is valid and effective for the start of the 2015-2016 school year, it is reasonable for schools to accept the PPE without the HCP's attestation to completion of the PD module during this period of transition.

You are encouraged to provide this information to parents, guardians and student-athletes to ensure a thorough understanding of the new requirements, and to ensure to the fullest extent possible, that a student's participation on an athletic team or squad is not unnecessarily delayed because of these new requirements.

The NJDOE is grateful to, and would like to thank, the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, American Heart Association, and New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Cardiology for their partnership and extraordinary efforts in developing the PD module. We are hopeful that the use of this module will help enhance the assessment skills of HCPs who perform student-athlete physical examinations and screenings and prevent the occurrence of sudden cardiac arrest in all student-athletes.

Note: The NJDOE does not have the capacity to provide continuing medical or nursing education credit for completion of the PD module. However, there is nothing that precludes an HCP from consulting with the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Medical Association credentialing division, or any other appropriate entity, regarding the possible receipt of continuing medical or nursing education credit.

Questions and concerns may be directed to schoolhealthservices@doe.state.nj.us.

SM/NC/CDP/S:\SHSS Unit\School Health\Broadcast memos CDP\FINAL PD Module broadcast memo March 10_KAW.docx

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