



School-Based Health Clinic

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT NORTH VALLEY HOSPITAL / COLUMBIA FALLS SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC

What is the School-Based Health Clinic?

The School-Based Health Clinic is a health center based in the school and provides students, and staff, with medical, wellness, and health education services. School-based health centers work to improve the health of students, increase access to health care and decrease time lost from school by providing health care in the school. Services provided include: acute care for illness or injury, physical exams and sports physicals, health education, follow-up for chronic illnesses and behavioral health services.

Is it free?

The School-Based Health Clinic will bill private insurance, Medicare, Healthy Montana Kids and Healthy Montana Kids Plus for eligible students. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for co-payments and deductibles for medical services. We are happy to assist in enrolling your child in the appropriate programs. You may apply through North Valley Professional Center for a sliding fee to help cover costs. If you have any questions about billing or the sliding fee program, please contact North Valley Professional Center at (406) 892-3208. **Insurance changes must be forwarded to North Valley Professional Center as soon as possible to avoid any billing problems.**

Will signing up for School-Based Health Clinic services mean that you can't use your family doctor? If we have a family doctor, will we need the School-Based Health Clinic services?

If you have a family doctor, you may still use the School-Based Health Clinic. You may find it convenient for your child to get medical care if they get sick or injured at school. Or you may want your child to be able to use the health education services offered through the School-Based Health Clinic. When we complete a physical exam or provide other services for your child, we will send the results to your family doctor upon your consent. **This service is not meant to replace your family doctor, it is meant to compliment the services your family doctor provides and to help students who do not have a family doctor. However, if you have Healthy Montana Kids Plus or private insurance with an assigned provider we may only be able to see your child once unless you change your primary care provider with your HMO to North Valley Professional Center.**



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Can I select which services my child can use at the School-Based Health Clinic?

Yes. The School-Based Health Clinic services are listed on the consent form and there is space for you to write in which services you do not want your child to receive. The School-Based Health Clinic staff will check your consent form before they see your child and will know which restrictions you have placed on your consent. All services will be provided in accordance with Montana state law. Parents are always encouraged to contact the School-Based Health Clinic staff with questions or concerns and are welcome to accompany children to their visit.

Will my child's medical information be kept confidential?

Your child's medical information will be treated with strict confidentiality in accordance with HIPAA and FERPA regulations. Please note that your school nurse will be assisting the providers who staff the School-Based Health Clinic. Information obtained during a School-Based Health Clinic visit will be kept in the patient's medical record and is not accessible to school personnel. If you would like the School-Based Health Clinic to discuss your child's condition with school personnel, please contact us. Otherwise, it is your responsibility to notify the school of any medications, allergies, restrictions or medical problems that may affect your child during school.

Who do I call for more information or to change insurance information?

Please call North Valley Professional Center at (406) 892-3208 with insurance changes, questions, suggestions or concerns, or to obtain information on applying for sliding fee, Healthy Montana Kids or Healthy Montana Kids Plus.