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## GTCHS Medical Homebound Information

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Under S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-241, students who cannot attend public school because of illness, accident, or pregnancy, even with the aid of transportation, are eligible for medical homebound or hospitalized instruction. A physician must certify the student is unable to attend school but may profit from instruction given in the home or hospital. Should an approved student not be provided the medical homebound instruction that he or she is entitled to receive, the student is eligible to have the medical homebound instruction made up by the district. This make up may occur during the student's remaining eligibility for medical homebound instruction or may occur after the student returns to school provided the make-up periods are not during the regular school day.

Under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-50(B)(1), a charter school must adhere to the same health, safety, civil rights, and disability rights requirements as are applied to public schools operating in the same school district or, in the case of the South Carolina Public Charter School District or a public or independent institution of higher learning sponsor, the local school district in which the charter school is located.

If you are in need of medical homebound services, please contact Amanda Burrow by emailing [aburrow@staff.gtchs.org](mailto:aburrow@staff.gtchs.org) or by calling our front office.

### FAQ

#### How does a parent arrange for his or her child to receive medical homebound instruction?

A parent should start by contacting Amanda Burrow, GTCHS Homebound Coordinator. State Board of Education Regulation 43-241 requires that a licensed physician certify that the student cannot attend school as a result of an accident, illness, or pregnancy, despite the aid of transportation, and that he or she may profit from instruction given in the home.

In addition, the physician must complete the state's medical homebound instruction form that GTCHS will provide. The principal of GTCHS may or may not then approve the student's participation in a program for medical homebound instruction.

#### When can medical homebound instruction begin?

State Board of Education Regulation 43-241 stipulates that a student is eligible for medical homebound instruction on the day following the last day of his or her school attendance or on the first day of the regular nine-month academic year in which the student would otherwise be enrolled if he or she were able to begin the school year. The student remains

eligible until the day before he or she returns to school or until the last day of the regular academic year, whichever occurs first. At GTCHS, if a student is out for more than 10 consecutive school days for a documented medical reason, homebound instruction may be requested.

### Who teaches the student receiving medical homebound instruction?

Medical homebound instruction is provided either by a teacher who is regularly employed at GTCHS or by a teacher whom GTCHS contracts to perform the service. State Board of Education Regulation 43-241 specifies that any teacher providing medical homebound instruction to students residing in South Carolina must hold a valid South Carolina teacher's certificate. In most instances, the teacher providing medical homebound instruction will not be the student's current classroom teacher. A South Carolina school district may count in membership a student who is compelled to reside outside the state to receive medical services, provided the student's teacher is certificated by the Department of Education in the state where services are rendered.

Teachers providing medical homebound instruction are encouraged to use audiotapes, videotapes, computer software, Internet resources, and other alternative methods of instructional delivery when appropriate.

### Can a parent request medical homebound instruction for a child because of a mental health problem?

Yes. A mental health problem may be a legitimate reason to request medical homebound instruction. However, a licensed physician must certify that the state of the child's mental health is the cause of his or her inability to attend school. If the mental health diagnosis indicates that long-term medical homebound instruction will be necessary, the parent(s) will need to make arrangements for a licensed mental health professional to develop a treatment plan and strategy for reentry into the school environment.

### If a physician completes a medical homebound application, isn't the school district required to provide medical homebound instruction?

No. The principal must approve any medical homebound instruction request. Upon the signed authorization of the parent, the principal may ask the physician to supply additional documentation in order to determine if medical homebound instruction is appropriate. The absence of this authorization could affect the approval process. GTCHS encourages discussing with physicians the accommodations and modifications that can be made to keep students in the least restrictive environment. If the parent wishes to appeal any decision made by the principal concerning homebound instruction, an in-person meeting should be set with the principal to see if consensus can be reached. If it cannot, the parent may appeal to the Board Appeals Committee. An outline of that procedure is located in the Special Ed Policy and Procedure handbook.

### Can the school request a second medical opinion if he or she disagrees with the first physician or feels that inadequate information has been provided?

There is no regulation in federal or state law that prohibits the principal from doing so. If administration feels that additional information is needed, then he or she may request a second medical opinion in order to gain the necessary information to approve medical

homebound instruction, deny medical homebound instruction, or determine possible accommodations or modifications to allow the student to continue in his or her regular school program.

### What are the student's responsibilities in the medical homebound instruction process?

The student must realize that medical homebound instruction is an extension of regular school and all classroom rules and regulations, as well as school district policies, apply.

In addition, the student should

- be available for all scheduled instruction;
- be dressed appropriately;
- have all books and materials needed for instruction;
- complete all homework assignments;
- remain courteous, comply with teacher requests, and use appropriate language; and
- dedicate instruction time to instruction only (no phone calls, visiting, radio, television, and so on).

Failure to fulfill these responsibilities could result in the early termination of a student's homebound period and/or loss of credit.

### What are the parents' responsibilities in the medical homebound instruction process?

The parents should

- realize that before instruction can begin, all necessary paperwork must be completed;
- ensure that the child is prepared for the arrival of the medical homebound teacher;
- understand that during the course of medical homebound instruction, adult supervision in the home may be required in order to ensure a healthy and safe environment for both the student and the teacher;
- make certain that the student is available for all scheduled instruction;
- contact the homebound teacher to cancel the scheduled period of instruction in cases of emergency;
- inform the homebound teacher of the child's future medical appointments as early as possible if such appointments will interfere with instruction time;
- understand that if the student is absent for his or her scheduled period of instruction, he or she is considered absent from school on that day;
- understand that the state's compulsory attendance laws fully apply to medically homebound students;
- communicate with the school's medical homebound instruction coordinator or the school's contact person about changes in the child's health and return-to-school plans;
- understand that although medical homebound instruction usually takes place at home, an alternative site may be designated if circumstances warrant.

**Appeal Process:** The principal, or his or her designee, must approve any medical homebound instruction request. Upon the signed authorization of the parent, additional documentation may be requested from the physician

in order to determine if medical homebound instruction is appropriate. The absence of this authorization could affect the approval process. If the principal then feels additional information is needed, then he or she may request a second medical opinion in order to gain the necessary information to approve medical homebound instruction, deny medical homebound instruction, or determine possible accommodations or modifications to allow the student to continue in his or her regular school program. If the parent wishes to appeal the decision of the principal, will follow the procedure set by the GTCHS Board of Directors.

1. Set a meeting with the principal in person to discuss the reasons for the decision and see if consensus can be reached.
2. Notify the Chairman of the Board of Directors within 5 school days of the meeting with the principal to request a meeting with the Board Appeals Committee.
3. The Chairman of the Board has 3 school days to respond to the parent with the notification of the date, time, and place of the meeting with the Board Appeals Committee. The meeting with the Board of Appeals will be scheduled within 5 school days of the request for appeal.
4. If the parent wishes to have legal representation at the appeal meeting, the Chairman of the Board of Directors must be notified within 2 school days of the scheduled meeting.
5. All written communication will be maintained as official and legal files by the Board Clerk.