

# Intrathecal Baclofen Therapy

## EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Intrathecal baclofen therapy uses a baclofen pump to deliver baclofen directly to the intrathecal space and treat developmental movement disorders. It is important to monitor for signs and symptoms caused by an abrupt stop or overdose of medication delivery. Baclofen underdosage, or withdrawal, is a potentially life-threatening medical emergency. As an implanted medical device, the baclofen pump requires ongoing monitoring for malfunction, failure, and infection. Manufacturer guidelines should be followed for safety restrictions or precautions specific to the device.

## WARNING SIGNS

- Sudden increase in muscle tone
- High temperature
- Sweating
- Itching without hives
- Increased heart rate
- Increased blood pressure
- Rapid breathing
- Confusion or irritability
- Change in mental status
- Insomnia
- Device alarming

## ESSENTIAL STEPS

1. Do not leave the student unattended.
2. Contact the school nurse/health room.
3. If the pump alarms and the student is asymptomatic, notify the parent/guardian.
4. If the school nurse or parent/guardian is unavailable, call 911.