

Dr. Barb Frankowski memo circulated in May 2014. We do not have a copy of the mentioned draft of the survey. It may however indicate that a thorough assessment of school nursing behavior, front-line experience, product knowledge and parental values for wellness were not a part of developing the AAP guidelines or 2010 update.

May 2014

Dr. Frankowski Memo:

As one of the lead authors of the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on Head Lice, I have been asked to give a lecture at the International Conference on Phthiraptera (!?!?) in Salt Lake City in August. This is the 5th international gathering of scientists from around the world who do research on head lice (and I guess other phthiraptera!) and help develop products to treat head lice infestations. They are extremely interested in the what parents, school nurses and pediatricians are currently doing with head lice infestations. The AAP policy statement was based on research evidence, but I know there has always been a tension between the statement (advocating abandoning no nits policies, and allowing a child discovered to have live lice by the school nurse to remain in school until the end of that day) and the pressures on school nurses from parents, teachers and school officials. There are very few studies that document what school nurses are actually doing. In addition, there are several new products, available by prescription only, that have been developed over the past several years. It is not clear if school nurses are aware of these products, if they are recommending them to parents of children with persistent infestations, and if different insurances in different states are actually covering the cost of these effective but very expensive products.

Since I am a practicing pediatrician myself (actually on call today!), I have neither the time or the funding to do a true scientific study that would be suitable for publication. However, since I will be speaking at the ICP and this is what the audience is really interested in, I would like to circulate this simple Survey Monkey to as many school nurses as possible in as many states as possible to get a real “front line” idea of what is actually going on out there. Since it is not to be used for a publication, no IRB approval was necessary. I think the payback will be in the education of these scientists who develop the products, so they know what parents and school nurses really need!

I have attached a draft of the survey (this is actually very close to what I would like to use, I am just waiting for a few changes from the person who is helping me with this).

Here is what I hope to have happen: If the board of the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants agree, I would love to see this survey sent to State School Nurse Consultants, who could then push it out on their school nurse list serves (for the states that have list serves). I

would not ask to have access to these list serves myself. I would add a cover note that the State School Nurse Consultants could send, along with the link to the Survey Monkey. The surveys are anonymous, and I will not identify any particular states, although I will look for regional differences (ie, New England vs southern states vs western states). I would be happy to make my presentation available to school nurses. I am a little nervous about the time, knowing that school will be ending very shortly in most states, and I would assume that many school nurses would not be checking their emails over the summer break, so if approved, any way that this could be sent out promptly would be very much appreciated.

I am available all this week, if you have any further questions for me. Send me an email, and I could respond that way, or by phone. If you are interested, I have included the link to the conference below (since it is copied, it doesn't link automatically, but you can copy and paste it in).

Thanks for any help you can give me!

Barb Frankowski, MD, MPH

<http://www.conferences.utah.edu/icp5/index.html>