

The Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc.

30 Ennis Road, P.O. Box 356 ~ North Oxford, MA 01537 ~ (508) 987-2056

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Barton Center is committed to maintaining the health and well-being of your child while he or she is in our care. In order to accomplish that goal, we must have strong and open two-way communication regarding your child. We know that you want only what is best for your child, and we share that expectation. Our medical directors are active participants in the development and implementation of our health care policies.

MEDICAL: The program is medically supervised by endocrinologists who remain on property during the entire session. They are responsible for diabetes management and health care needs of campers.

DIABETES MANAGEMENT: The child's activity, diet, sleep pattern, and stress are different at camp than at home. The goals of glycemic control at camp are to avoid extremes in blood glucose levels, not to optimize intensive glycemic control. It has also been our experience, and the opinion of our Medical Directors, that on opening day the insulin dose needs to be reduced by 20%. This is further reviewed on a daily basis and adjusted to meet the child's needs at camp.

DIABETES SUPPLIES: Blood sugar meters, strips, insulin, and treatments for low blood sugars are provided. However, we only have a limited amount of insulin pump supplies and request that you provide the supplies your child needs during camp. We recommend packing extra infusion sets to account for increased activity requiring more frequent site changes. Campers using ½ unit insulin pens are requested to bring them as well.

EDUCATION: Our educational model promotes positive choices, to advocate balance as a key to a healthy and full life, and to encourage campers to stretch for themselves and for others to reach their full potential. Through nurtured guidance, the younger campers learn how the individual elements of medical management, diet, exercise, stress, and sleep affect diabetes management. With nurtured empowerment, the pre-teen and early teen campers begin to collaborate with staff as they work through the process of balancing their lives with diabetes. Using supervised independence, the teen campers are inspired to move from egocentric health skills to life skills including family and friends, personal growth, work and school, faith in themselves, and community service. Our learning strategy is a blend of teachable moments and group learning sessions with camp counselors, health care staff, physicians, nutrition experts, and social workers.

BEHAVIOR: We expect that your child will have a wonderful experience with us during his/her stay. He/she is sure to learn new things and make new friends. However, behaviors that endanger self or others will not be accepted, and we may be forced to send your child home. This includes unsupervised, dangerous self-bolusing behavior, or diabulimia. In these incidents, the camper will be removed from the insulin pump and placed on injections. You will be notified if this occurs.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION: It is the policy of The Barton Center to notify parents if:

- A child requires an extended observation in the Health Center
- Behavioral problem
- Pump malfunction
- Injuries that require more than simple first aid
- Medication error
- New prescription
- Changes in diabetes management other than titration of insulin dose
- Hypoglycemia resulting in seizure activity
- Referral to an outside health care facility
- Other situations that are deemed necessary by the Camp Director

STAFF: The Health Care team is a blend of nurses, nurse practitioners, student nurses, and medical students under the 24-hour supervision of an endocrinologist and Health Services Manager. We also have dietitian interns, and social work interns. Our Medical Directors are from UMass Memorial Hospital, Joslin Diabetes Center Clinic, and Boston Medical Center.

We hope your child has a wonderful time with us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 508-987-2056.