

Should all children with Syncope be given support to assist their education?

An investigation into whether or not there is support to address the lack of legislation for syncope and to have it included as a condition requiring educational support.

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Abstract

This study aims to decide whether or not children with the medical condition syncope required support to assist their education. The research encompassed all educational stages, from primary and high schools right up to further and higher education. It included participants from the United States of America and the United Kingdom. It was carried out with the help of the leading charity of syncope, STARS, who are based in the UK and the USA.

The enquiry used both qualitative and quantitative data and has been subject to an in depth analysis to decipher whether students want or require support for their education. The research used a questionnaire which was given out and placed online for all ages to fill in. A total of twenty-five responses were received, ten respondents from the USA and fifteen were from the UK. Data sort via STARS was greatly received and the enthusiasm from the charity was clear from the onset.

Numerous acts have previously been passed to incorporate students who have medical needs, but as yet none of these cover syncope. Recent guidelines including the Access to Education for Children and Young People with Medical Needs (2001) has been distributed for schools. The potential of this guidance is clearly highlighted for those conditions covered by this but as yet syncope is not included within this.

The findings revealed a clear need for some for support or government guidance on syncope to be made available to schools, colleges and universities across the country. This is to ensure that all students with the condition are given the best chance with their education. It needs to be made clear though, that not every child with syncope requires or wants the support.

Declaration

I declare that the work in this dissertation is my own, except where otherwise stated. It has not been previously been submitted to any other university or institution of higher education, in total or in part, for the award of a degree.

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List of Abbreviations

STARS - Syncope Trust and Reflex Anoxic Seizures

LEA- Local Education Authority

RAS- Reflex Anoxic Seizures

DfES- Department for Education and Skills

DCSF- Department for children, schools and families

UK- United Kingdom

USA- United States of America

IDEA- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

CYPU- Children and Young person's Unit

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