

EMPLOYEES AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

WHEN YOUR STUDENT HAS HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA

Your student has HS. This is important for you to know, as HS often has a serious impact on patients' lives. For many patients the main concern related to the disease is how it affects their studies.



Having HS is compatible with being a student

HS is a chronic skin disease causing fluid-filled abscesses, odour problems and pain.

It may therefore be harder for students with HS than for their fellow students to complete an education. For example, your student may get into trouble, when absence increases during breakouts, surgery, discomfort or pain. And your student may come under financial pressure, because of the expenses for high-priced dressings and bandages and limited possibilities of taking a student job. But the disease not only poses a physical challenge for your student. Because of its symptoms, the disease is tabooed and many live with the disease in secret.

This is especially true at an age, when your student is establishing an identity and is highly sensitive to the surroundings.

Support through dialogue and action

It is incredibly important that you are willing to talk to your student about the disease and how you can create the best setting together for a good study environment. But remember that entering into dialogue with you

"It's not easy to start in a new class and be the one, who has to change her clothes in the ladies' room, because of liquid draining from an abscess. Nor is it cool to be the one, who is often absent, when the disease flares up. I only got around to telling my principal and my fellow students about my disease after I had been in hospital for a long time."

- HS-patient

may be hard for your student. The process of approaching you may have taken longer than you think. Therefore, it is important for you to show you understand, care and is willing to help when you talk about the disease.

It is important that you consider, how you can create a setup that balances the disease and the course of study. Some students may need more flexibility in their schedule, while other need compensatory classes or allowance of higher absence.



The word most HS patients associate with the disease is pain

2%

Studies indicate that approx. 2% of the adult population in Denmark suffer from HS to varying degrees

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SUPPORT OPTIONS FOR YOUR STUDENT WITH **H**IDRADENITIS **S**UPPURATIVA

Various support options are available, depending on whether your student is apprenticed or is taking youth education programme or a higher education.



Special educational needs support

If your student needs special aids for his or her education, either due to physically or mentally reduced functional capacity, he or she may apply for special educational needs support. This option is available at some institutions of vocational and higher education.

Special educational needs support may include necessary assistive products such as compensation for additional teaching expenses, sit/stand desks, computers and other technical aids.

Read more here:

www.spsu.dk/Videregaaende-uddannelser/Saadan-soeger-du
(in Danish only)

Examination assistance

If enrolled in a youth education programme, your student may be allowed to take an examination on special conditions if, due to HS, he or she is unable to maintain his or her usual level. The special conditions may include additional breaks, a longer examination period, practical assistance or the use of a computer. The special conditions must be agreed between the principal and your student before the examination.

If enrolled in a higher education course, your student may apply for a number of exemptions.

Absence

In special cases, your student may extend his or her post-secondary education by completing the education in four years. In upper secondary schools, the student may be offered schooling at home or at the hospital on grounds of illness. If enrolled in a higher education course, your student may apply for additional monthly state education grants.

Read more here: www.su.dk

“Luckily I’ve had a good talk with my teacher and my principal. I had severe pains in the second year of my upper secondary education, so I was absent a lot of the time. If I hadn’t been open about it I would definitely have had to take my exam with full examination requirements including the full curriculum and I might have lost my state education grant”

- HS-patient



HS affects mental health; 36% suffer from depression

8

It typically takes eight years before HS is diagnosed



Many HS patients suffer from other diseases such as rheumatism and the intestinal Morbus Crohn