



MEDICATION

Medications must be dispensed from the original pharmacy container with instructions for use and must refer to the individual being treated. This is important so that, in the absence of written instructions from a doctor, our Medical Team can use the instructions on the original packaging to administer the correct dosage at the correct time of day. Place your camper's medications in a large (gallon-size) zip-locked baggie with the camper's name clearly written on the baggie. Medication requiring refrigeration should also be noted.

Campers who are transported directly to the camp site should give medication to the camp medical team as soon as they arrive. **Campers who use chartered transportation should pack their medications separately and give them to one of the health screeners at the pick-up site.** Medications will be immediately forwarded to the Camp Nurse upon arrival at the camp site. The Camp Nurse and members of the medical team will keep and administer all medication. All medication will be kept in a locked cabinet when not being administered. Medications are usually given at a meal simply because people are easy to find. The nurse makes special arrangements with a person if that individual's meds need to be taken at a different time. Any unused medication that is remaining at the end of camp will be returned with your camper(s) on departure day.

If you forget to send your child's medication, or if for any other reason MCBC must purchase medication for your child during camp, the cost of the medication purchased for your child will be billed to you directly.

If your child takes prescribed medicine for a behavior concern, **DO NOT** stop giving your child this medicine prior to their attendance at camp without express written instructions from your physician.

Caregivers/guardians are welcome to call the office at (314) 939-1550 prior to camp and privately discuss any special medical needs and concerns.

Below is our formal medication policy as written in our Healthcare Center Manual:

Medication

It is policy that all medication (stock meds and personal meds of both staff and campers) is kept in a locked area under the nurse's supervision. This mandate complies with American Camp Association (ACA) standards and State Department of Health guidelines.

Three essentials for administering medications, regardless of the qualifications of the healthcare provider are:

- Written directions from the caregiver for any medications that will be given or applied for any existing condition, OR written order of a physician (including procedures in treatment procedures).
- Written record of treatment which includes the reason for the treatment, the dates and times of treatment, and the person giving treatment. When medications are given, the written record should



Midwest Children's Burn Camp Medication Policy

show the medication, dosage, authority for giving it, and the name of the person administering the medication.

- Written information provided to the caregiver for anything that was done other than what was discussed in advance.

Medications must be in the care and protection of the designated healthcare provider (in a locked container) to assure proper use and to protect against unauthorized use. **Medications must be dispensed from the original pharmacy container with instructions for use and must refer to the individual being treated.** When medications are administered away from the camp and it is not reasonable to send the entire supply on the trip, the appropriate dosage may be put into a sealed package or vial (that has not been previously used), with the individual's name, name of medication, and complete instructions for when and how to give it. The package should be in the controlled care of the adult. A written record is required.

The health history or health exam asks about being under a physician's care and about medications. This is an alert to discuss a health condition with a caregiver and to request the appropriate written instructions. It is not a direction to treat.

Routine personal medications are administered under the supervision of the nurse and in accord with orders from a physician or, as in the case of vitamins, upon the request of caregivers. Medications are usually given at a meal simply because people are easy to find. The nurse makes special arrangements with a person if that individual's meds need to be taken at a different time.

Use of "as needed" medication is supervised by the camp nurse. It is important to realize that the rationale for giving a particular medication must be documented. The camp recognizes that most over-the-counter meds can be administered by people educated to do so (e.g., the nursing assistant), but the decision to use most medications requires professional assessment. Consequently, not all members of the healthcare team have equal ability regarding medications. It is the responsibility of the camp RN to assess the camp healthcare team and determine who can administer what medications and to supervise that process.

In cases where a question exists about medication, the camp nurse must contact the appropriate person (i.e., the prescribing MD, caregiver) by phone to clarify the issue. This conversation is documented in the client's health record and supported by an order with the consulting individual's signature.

It is possible that a caregiver may send a camper with a variety of medications packaged together. The nurse may not be able to identify the medication. Nurses may not administer medication unless they follow standard nursing medication practices. Consequently, the nurse may have to tactfully arrange with the caregiver for a new supply of appropriately labeled medication. To minimize this potentially time-consuming event, the program's *Caregiver Handbook* clearly instructs caregivers how to route medications into the program. Camp nurses are expected to refuse to give a medication which does not meet safety guidelines.