

**In reading this leaflet you should also refer to Managing Medications - SIF 11a**

When holding or administering medications for young people it is advised that;

- Procedures are agreed with parents around managing prescription medication for their child. These will by necessity depend on the comfort level and/or experience of the Scouters involved, and may vary from group to group. Key issues include:-
  - Clarity around the role of Scouters in relation to holding medications, administering medications, or supervising the self-administration of medications.
  - The agreed circumstances on children carrying and self-administering medication.
  - The necessity for prior written parental consent for any medicines to be given or self-administered.
- Scouters should never give non-prescribed medicine to a young person unless there is prior parental permission, which should be recorded. Aspirin or medicines containing 'Ibuprofen' or 'Paracetamol' must never be administered to someone under the age of 16 unless prescribed by a doctor.
- Parents be required to check with their General Practitioner if unsure as to whether their child can self-medicate.
- If a young person refuses to take their medicine Scouters should not force them to do so but should record the refusal and notify parents immediately. Procedures should be agreed in advance with parents for such a situation and these should be implemented.
- Appropriate arrangements should be made for the safe storage of medicines on camps/trips.

**Parents should inform the Scouters in charge of their child about;**

- The type of medication their child is taking.
- The amounts to be taken and at what intervals.
- If the young person is managing / self – administering, and the amounts of medication that they have with them.
- Any pre-administration requirements (e.g. the need to take food before the medication).
- Any known side effects of the medication.
- What might constitute an emergency in relation to the medication.
- What action to take in an emergency and who to contact.

When holding medicines Scouters should ensure that the medicines are provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacy and include the instructions for prescription. It is advisable that Scouters check the container to ensure that the details include;

- The name of the child.
- The name of the medicine.
- The dosage to be taken.
- The method of administration.
- The frequency of administration.
- Potential side effects (e.g. drowsiness, rash, headaches).
- The expiry date.

The management of medications on meetings, trips or camps should always form part of the risk assessment carried out by the group in advance of the activity.

These procedures should be reviewed and updated regularly, and before every away trip.