Summary: With an increasing number of youth taking prescribed medications, leaders need some basic tools and guidance for helping Scouts use their prescriptions safely. Remember that proper use of a prescription is the responsibility of the individual taking it, or that individual’s parent or guardian. Good planning, preparedness, and knowledge are necessary for keeping youth safe and healthy.

Key Information:
SAFE USE OF MEDICATION IN SCOUTING
• AHMR (Annual Health and Medical Record). A critical component to protecting all participants for a Scouting event. A completed AHMR for each individual gives leaders and providers the information they need to begin treatment in an emergency.
• Plan. A medication use plan should also be developed if a Scout leader will be involved in managing a youth’s medication during an event.
• Supervision. Based on the plan, there should be clear agreement on who is helping the youth member with their medications.
• Labeling. Medications must be accurately labeled to prevent errors.

• Storage. The plan should include storage for all high risk medications.
• Emergency Medication. Make sure that youth with asthma inhalers or epinephrine auto-injectors have what they need when they need it.
• Nonprescription (OTC) Medications. Ensure clear guidance is in place for all nonprescription medications that may be provided by adult leaders or kept by a youth member for use as needed.
• Accountability. One best practice, though not required, is to have documentation on hand for all stored medications that may be taken by youth.

Additional resources:
www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS
www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/ahmr
www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety
Medication Use in Scouting, No. 680-036: