



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 participant 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:
www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Guidelines_Policies.aspx.