



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS CIVIL AIR PATROL

CAP REGULATION 160-2

2 MARCH 2011

Health Services

HANDLING OF CADET MEDICATIONS

This regulation establishes CAP national policy and procedures for the handling of cadet medications during certain CAP activities. This regulation provides guidance regarding the use under applicable state law of prescription and non-prescription medications during CAP activities by CAP members who are legally minors (under the age of 18). **If any state law or state regulation is more restrictive than the general rule described in this regulation, the state law or state regulation must be followed. Note: This is a new regulation.**

1. Introduction. CAP is not a health care provider, and CAP members are not permitted to act in the role of health care providers during the performance of official CAP duties. Consequently, CAP members are not permitted to function as pharmacists, physicians, nurses, or in any other role that would permit the administration and dispensing of drugs under various federal and state laws and regulations. Should any CAP member be required by law to render aid by virtue of his or her professional credential or state license (i.e., a paramedic or emergency medical technician), such CAP member shall, in complying with his or her legal obligations, be deemed to be doing so either as the agent of his or her employer or as an agent of the state agency that issued his or her license, but in no event as the agent of CAP.

2. General Rule. The taking of prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual member for whom the medication was prescribed or, if the member is a minor, the member's parent or guardian. Except in extraordinary circumstances, CAP members, regardless of age, will be responsible for transporting, storing, and taking their own medications, including inhalers and epinephrine pens.

a. A CAP senior member, after obtaining all the necessary information and receiving documentation of the written permission from a minor cadet's parent or guardian for the administration of prescription medication during the activity, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure the minor cadet is reminded to take any prescribed medication at the times and in the frequencies prescribed; however, no senior member will be required or encouraged to do so. This regulation does not prohibit senior member staff from monitoring medication compliance with directly observed medication ingestion, having medication forms for the cadet to initial when doses were taken, performing pill counts, or other compliance verification.

b. When a cadet is unable to safely self-medicate and senior member supervision is not available, one option may be to postpone attendance at the activity until the cadet can handle the self-medication task. Another option may be to have a parent or guardian attend the activity as a CAP member or cadet sponsor member to supervise the cadet's medication.

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c. In the case of a severe reaction requiring use of an epinephrine injection pen where a cadet has become so ill as to have difficulty in administering his or her own epinephrine injection, senior members may assist the cadet in administering the epinephrine injection in order to save the life of the cadet. It is encouraged that health services officers or senior members who may have contact with this cadet be made aware of the potential for severe reactions and become familiar with the operation of the cadet's particular epinephrine device.

d. Members who require refrigeration for medications should carefully coordinate with activity officials well in advance of their attendance at the activity to ensure that refrigeration will be available. CAP cannot guarantee the availability of refrigeration at all activities.

e. Members are prohibited from sharing, loaning, or otherwise providing any prescription, non-prescription, herbal, vitamin, nutritional supplement or illegal substance to any other cadet.

3. Departures from the General Rule. If any state law or state regulation is more restrictive than the general rule described in this regulation (either in prohibiting minors from self-administering drugs prescribed for them, in prohibiting unlicensed persons from supervising the self-administration of prescription drugs, or in limiting how such drugs may be stored and accounted for) the state law or state regulation must be followed.

a. The wing legal officer will research applicable state laws on an annual basis. If no deviations are noted a wing supplement will be issued stating that the regulation does not conflict with state law and must be followed. If state law requires deviation from the general rule of this regulation, the wing, in consultation with appropriate CAP health and legal professionals, shall adopt a supplement to this regulation specifying to what extent the general rule must be altered to comply with its state laws and regulations. This supplement must be approved by the CAP General Counsel (NHQ/GC) and the CAP Chief of Health Services.

b. For National and regional activities, the supplement of the host wing, if the wing has published such a supplement, will be used for the activity.

c. No other supplements to this regulation are authorized.

4. Written Permission Required for Minor Cadets. No minor cadet may bring any prescription or non-prescription medications, herbals, vitamins, or supplements to any CAP activity without the written permission of the cadet's parent or guardian. Such permission may be contained within application materials for the activity. A parent's or guardian's written permission, will include acknowledgement and understanding of this regulation.

5. Handling of Cadet Medications. Cadets will bring any prescription, non-prescription medications, herbals, vitamins, or supplements to a CAP activity only in the original containers in which the medication was dispensed or packaged. Prescription containers must contain the name of the prescribing physician, the name and telephone number of the dispensing pharmacy (if applicable), the name of the recipient of the prescription, and any other applicable dosing instructions. All other non-prescription medications, herbals, vitamins and supplements must also contain dosing instructions and be labeled with the cadet's name.

6. Cadet Non-Prescription Medications. For purposes of this regulation, "non-prescription medications" shall mean oral and topical non-prescription medications approved by the FDA for sale "over the counter," and shall exclude herbal medications, vitamins, and dietary supplements.

a. Cadet Self-Medication. Cadets may only self-administer non-prescription medications as provided in writing by the parents or guardians.

b. Permission for Administration; Limitations. Situations may arise where non-prescription medications would be helpful to treat a minor illness or injury, but were not provided in the original written parental permission. Non-prescription medications may be given to minor cadets as needed and according to package directions by CAP senior members, if permission has been given in writing by the cadet's parent or guardian. Herbal medications, vitamins, and dietary supplements are not to be provided by senior members to cadets under this paragraph. CAP has no approved protocols for the administration of any prescription or non-prescription medications or substances by any member other than as provided in this regulation. This regulation does not pre-empt any state law or regulation that would prohibit a CAP member from undertaking these actions, and each wing's supplement to this regulation (as required by paragraph 3 above) shall describe any such prohibitions on the administration of non-prescription medications by non-licensed persons.

c. Documentation of Non-Prescription Medication Administration. If non-prescription medications are administered or furnished by staff, the senior member administering or furnishing such medications shall record the minor cadet's name and the date, time, and amount of such medications administered or furnished to the minor cadet in the activity medical log and the record shall be available to the minor cadet's parent or guardian at the conclusion of the activity.

7. No Restrictions on Cadets Over Age of Majority. Nothing in this regulation shall limit the ability of CAP cadet members over the age of majority in the state in which the activity is conducted either to possess or self-administer prescription, non-prescription drugs, herbals, vitamins or supplements.