

Camp Medical Considerations

(General Guidelines)

For the protection of everyone at camp, a camp nurse should be present at all times and arrangements made for quick emergency medical treatment, i.e., near-by hospital, clinic, or doctor's office.

Accidents do happen at camp. Campers and staff can do the craziest things at camp! By having a nurse on the grounds, medical attention can be quickly given.

It is desirable that a registered nurse serve as the camp nurse. However, if one is not available, then a practical nurse should be available. **(NOTE: Your state may have laws that apply in this area, so, be wise, and know what your state requires.)**

Avoid using just anyone in this role and giving them the title of Camp Nurse. Remember you have the lives of others at stake here.

The Camp Nurse should be free from all other duties. This does not eliminate them from sharing in camp activities, but they should not be assigned additional responsibilities that would take them away from being Camp Nurse at all times.

The Camp Nurse has these general responsibilities:

- Be on call at all times
- Decide when emergency treatment by doctor is needed
- Decide if/when parents should be called
- Be in control of all medications taken by campers
- Be in control of all medical supplies
- Have medical information of campers immediately available
- Maintain current log of all treatments. Information such as name, date, time, type of injury or illness, treatment given. **(Your camp insurance carrier should have guidelines for this area)**
- Know how to fill out required medical forms required by insurance carrier, hospital, clinic or doctor's office.

The Camp Nurse should be centrally located on the camp grounds and have own quarters. Adjacent separate bed space should be available for patients. Ideally, there should be a separate building for the Camp Nurse with connecting quarters to a ward for boys and a ward for girls. By isolating all illnesses, the danger of infecting other is minimized.

The relationship of the camp nurse to the total camp program should be understood by everyone. The Camp Nurse must have certain authority and this must be clearly understood.

**ALWAYS CONSULT STATE OR COUNTY
OFFICIALS FOR REQUIREMENTS RELATING
TO THE CAMP NURSE**