

MEDICAL ID: A NECESSITY

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Abstract

A medical identification tag is a small emblem of different styles which provide important information about the person's medical condition. This could be in the form of chain bracelet, charm bracelet, stretch rubber, pendant, silicone etc. The intention is to alert a emergency medical officer, paramedical staff, other first responders of the condition even if the wearer is not conscious enough, old enough, or too injured to explain his present condition and helps in providing best and timely medical care in case of an emergency . A wallet card with the same information may be used instead of or along with a tag, and a stick-on medical ID tag may be added or used alone.

Key words: *identification tag, emergency, responder, paramedical*

Introduction¹

A medical identification tag is worn on a bracelet, neck_chain, or on the clothing bearing a message that the wearer has an important medical condition that might require immediate attention. The tag is often made out of stainless steel, sterling silver, 10k gold, 14k gold, titanium or sterling silver Rhodium coated. Different colour options red, blue, brown, gold, orange, pink, silver etc for male, females and youth are present in the market.

Why are Medical Ids Critical

In an emergency, when you might not be able to speak for yourself, a medical ID bracelet or necklace speaks for you. Symptoms of common ailments can easily be misdiagnosed. Prompt diagnosis is critical to effective treatment. A brief description of vital medical facts engraved on your medical ID ensures appropriate and timely medical care. Medical Ids can eliminate trips to the hospital, reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and prevent minor emergencies from becoming major ones.

Conditions for use²

- Adrenal insufficiency
- Anaphylaxis allergies (food, drug, insect)
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Angioedema (hereditary)
- Anemia³
- Asthma
- Asplenia
- Autism⁴
- Cerebrovascular incident⁵
- Chemotherapy
- Blood type (rare)
- Dementia
- Diabetic (Type 1 and 2)
- Epilepsy

- Haemophilia
- Hypoglycaemia
- Hypopituitarism
- Lymphedema risk
- Use of a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) drug, which can interact fatally with epinephrine
- Memory disorders
- Pacemaker or other implantable medical devices
- Porphyria (acute)
- Seizure disorders
- Situs inversus
- Von Willebrand Disease

Why medical IDs are important

1. Busy lives

Our lives are expanding beyond our home more than ever before. In days gone by our social circles where “everyone knows your name” were common. Now you are lucky even if your next door neighbour or co-worker knows you by your first name. If you find yourself in a situation where you need help in the event of an accident, medical emergency or if your child becomes separated from you in a busy shopping mall, you often have to rely on strangers to offer you assistance.

2. Aging population

It's fact that people live to a greater age than we ever have done before. This has made the incidence of Alzheimer disease, type 2 diabetes, advanced arthritis and heart diseases much more common. Carrying medical id and record of people to call in an emergency can be life saving action for the elderly.

3. Safety at the work place

Ensuring safety of employees is a critical requirement to all companies and employers. Often employees are reluctant to share private medical information with their employers this can lead to tragedy if the worker was involved with an accident or medical emergency on site. Empowering workers with an I.D. system that allows them to play a personal role in provision for their own on-site safety whilst maintaining data privacy is a valuable tool any employer can offer their employees.

Types of medical ID⁶

The most common form of medical ID is jewellery which provides a logo or inscription indicating a particular medical condition. These medical identification tags can be made out of stainless steel (usually classified as 316L and known as surgical stainless steel), sterling silver or gold. If found by emergency personnel the inscription provides an indication of your special medical needs. Tags are available with pre-engraved conditions or can be custom engraved with your specific medical histories and have the benefit of that all information is self-contained and does not require any form of technology to view in case of an emergency.

1. Another type of medical ID jewellery includes a member identification number and a toll-free number for medical emergency personnel to contact the organization and obtain full information about the wearer's medical conditions, treatment, and history. These organizations maintain a database of medical information on their members and can provide it to medical personnel when requested.

2. The newest technology allows the user to carry stickers with an NFC Tag. A similar technology allows the user to carry stickers with a QR code. By scanning the NFC Tag or the QR code with a Smartphone, you will reach the stored medical alert information.

3. Silicone bracelets, pre-printed with a general medical condition or allergy, are also popular. Recently patients have begun to "tattoo" their medical condition on their wrist or arm. Although a permanent tattoo might be considered, a temporary tattoo works as well.

4. Other items include stick on tags that stick onto a driver's license, wallet, or cell phone which are practical for the person who does not want to carry something extra advertising their medical condition.
5. Pendant or wrist strap containing a wireless alert button, also known as a panic button, worn in the home as part of a wireless medical alert system. This type of medical jewellery sends a signal to a dialling console which contacts a medical alarm monitoring service or directly dials first responders when an emergency occurs.

What to Engrave on Your Medical ID⁷

1. Your Name

Including your name on your ID gives emergency responders a quick way to identify and address you as they begin treatment. Caregivers should also consider adding their name to the ID of the person they care for.

2. Medical Conditions

Be sure to include any medical conditions that may affect the type of treatment you need in an emergency. Examples include diabetes, epilepsy, Alzheimer's or dementia, heart conditions, or transplant patients.

3. Allergies

It's important to include any allergies you may have. Examples include food allergies, insect allergies and medication allergies such as an allergy to penicillin. This information provides additional insight for first responders to administer proper care

4. Medications

Any prescribed medications taken on a regular basis should be engraved on your ID. This could prevent adverse reactions or provide critical information to responders. For example, it is critical to know if you are taking a blood thinner or you are on insulin.

5. Emergency Contact

We strongly recommend adding an ICE (In Case of Emergency) phone number to IDs for children, people with autism or dementia, or a caregiver's contact information. You may also wish to add your doctor's contact details.

6. Helpful Information:

By carefully considering what to engrave on your ID, your medical ID can convey critical information to those around you. You help empower first responders such as paramedics and other medical professionals to provide you with the best and timely medical care in case of an emergency.

Conclusion

Medical ID engraving speaks to emergency medical officer or the first responder additional information available about the person seeking urgent medical attention and thus provide the person speedy emergency management. The need for medical identification tag has become more important in the present time since more and more children, elders, youth etc are affected with various medical conditions. For instance, if your loved one's blood sugar level drop drastically when you are away from them such as school, office or field trip, medical id bracelet ensure the right people are getting the information they need. In these critical situations, precious time can be managed wisely.

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