

**REPORT OF THE INFLIGHT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL KIT TASK FORCE
AEROSPACE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 11, 1997
ALEXANDRIA, VA**

The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) convened a Task Force of physicians across the major specialties on August 11, 1997 in Alexandria, Virginia to review the contents of US air carrier inflight emergency medical kits. In addition, the Task Force put forth a recommendation on inflight automatic external defibrillators (AED's). The recommendations of the Task Force were based upon a survey of 2,300 AsMA physicians (who had treated at least one passenger on a commercial flight). Medical judgement and common sense were also essential components of the deliberations. The recommendations contained herein are those of the Emergency Medical Kit Ad Hoc Task Force and, therefore, do not represent Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) official policy. AsMA views this as an interim report requiring further studies and ongoing discussion before definitive recommendations can be made.

The following recommended list of medications and medical supplies is offered as a baseline for US air carriers. Further modification may be indicated according to the experience of individual airlines as well as by the medical judgement of their respective medical departments or medical consultants.

I. MEDICATIONS FOR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES

These medications should be stored in an emergency medical kit to be administered only by a qualified health care provider.

MEDICATION

COMMENTS

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|---|---|
| 1) Nitroglycerin Sublingual Tablets or Sublingual Spray | For use in suspected angina, congestive heart failure, as adjunct therapy for hypertension. |
| 2) Epinephrine 1:1000 (Autoinjector) | With adult and pediatric dosage. |
| 3) 50% Dextrose (50 cc Vial) | |
| 4) Diphenhydramine | For allergic reaction, motion sickness, sedation. |
| 5) Diazepam 10 mgm Ampules (3) (IM) | For seizure disorder. Can also be used for sedation. |

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| 6) Lidocaine HCL | To be used as an antiarrhythmic. Administer I.V. Recommended only for long haul, over water flights. |
| 7) Bronchodilator (Albuterol) | Utilize with spacer for acute asthmatic attacks. Can also be used for airway spasm. |
| 8) Glucagon for IM Injection (1 mgm Vials) | For hypoglycemia. Could also be used as adjunctive therapy for gastroesophageal spasm. |

II. MEDICATION FOR NON-LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS

As a cost-saving measure and for other logistic considerations, it is recommended that the following items be stored in a separate supplementary or amenities kit. Those medications with an asterisk should be prescribed only by a qualified health care provider.

MEDICATION

COMMENTS

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Acetaminophen | Non specific analgesia. Include liquid form for children. |
| 2) ASA | As a nonspecific analgesic and as adjunctive therapy for suspected myocardial infarction and TIA. |
| 3) Gaviscon Liquid | For gastroesophageal reflux. |
| 4) Simethicone | For reduction of intestinal gas. |
| 5) Phenergan Tabs (+ Injectable)* | For migraine headaches and motion sickness. |
| 6) Meclizine | For motion sickness exclusively. |
| 7) ½% Neosynephrine Nasal Spray | For preventing barotrauma and/or eustachian tube blockage. |
| 8) Toradol * | For moderate-severe pain such as urinary tract stones. |

III. MEDICAL SUPPLIES

ITEM

COMMENTS

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|---|-----------------|
| 1) Pediatric Oxygen Mask With A Pop Out | For deliveries. |
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Valve, Hand Held Bulb Suction, Cord Clamp,
Heating Capability for Towels or Thermal Blanket

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| 2) Protective Disposal Masks/Gloves | For health care providers. |
| 3) Ambu Bag | With small, medium and large masks. |
| 4) Nasopharyngeal Airway | For severe breathing difficulties. |
| 6) Splint | Malleable aluminum splints of various sizes
with ace bandages. |
| 7) Medical Oxygen | Flight attendant supplementary
oxygen may be used. |
| 8) Syringes For Injectables
(Including Insulin Syringes) | Have a variety of sizes. |
| 9) Urinary Catheter | For acute urinary retention. |
| 10) Bandages/Wraps/Tape | |
| 11) Stethoscope/Sphygmomanometer | |
| 12) Oropharyngeal Airways | Three sizes. |
| 13) Sealed Alcohol Sponges | |
| 14) Basic Instruction Book or Cue Cards for
Ready Reference of Medication Usage/Dose | |

IV. AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED's)

The Task Force recommended that US air carriers consider AEDs on wide body aircraft for use on specific routes, particularly long haul or over water. It was further recommended that the AED's be avionics tested and that airlines ensure an appropriate training program with particular attention given to safety considerations.