Healthy Communication

A doctor’s visit usually begins with an interview: The doctor, nurse or medical assistant asks us about our health history and current concerns, then adds this information to our permanent file. The doctor then uses our medical records to make the best possible recommendations about our health care.

But when a medical emergency strikes or an accident happens, we may not be able to communicate with first responders or health care workers. Stroke victims, for example, may be awake and alert but unable to speak or understand speech. People in shock may lose consciousness, and those with head injuries may not be lucid enough to convey important medical information to others.

Medic Alert tags communicate when we can’t. Your tag identifies your major medical condition(s), such as diabetes or drug allergies, so that first responders can begin treatment. Once you are at the hospital, staff can call the Medic Alert center for your medical records and information about any medications you take or whether you are currently undergoing medical treatment. Medic Alert employees can also contact your family and put them in touch with hospital staff sooner.

If you have been thinking about getting a Medic Alert bracelet for yourself or a loved one, now is the time to do it. If you already have a Medic Alert tag, take a few minutes to contact the service and update your medical records or your family’s contact information. You’ll protect your health and your family’s peace of mind by making crucial information about your health available to those who need it.

August Is Medic Alert Awareness Month

Prayer: Caring God, remind me to appreciate those medical professionals who stand ready to care for me in an emergency. Guide them in their work each day. Amen.

Q and A About Medic Alert

Q: I’ve always thought that Medic Alert jewelry was for people with serious medical conditions. I’m in good health, but am allergic to some medications. Should I get a bracelet?
A: If you are in an accident or experience an unexpected health crisis, you may not be able to speak for yourself. By wearing a Medic Alert bracelet or necklace, you can prevent doctors or paramedics from administering drugs that may be dangerous for you.

Q: My doctor told me that I should wear a Medic Alert bracelet, but I don’t like the way they look. What are my alternatives?
A: Medic Alert medallions can be worn as necklaces, watches and even shoelace tags. They also come in different sizes, metals and colors, including sports bands and fashionable beaded bracelets. Today’s wearers have a variety of good-looking styles to choose from.

Q: A loved one suffers from Alzheimer’s Disease. How can a Medic Alert service help?
A: A Medic Alert tag lets law enforcement, first responders and medical personnel know that a person has Alzheimer’s and that he or she may not be able to effectively communicate, even if conscious. Medic Alert services can also be combined with a GPS location service: Your loved one can wear a wrist bracelet or carry a pager that allows you to track his or her whereabouts, and the Medic Alert service can notify you when your loved one is found by law enforcement or first responder services.

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