

Medication in first aid kits

OHS information for employers and workers

This bulletin provides information to employers and workers who are considering including medications in first aid kits.



Medication and first aid kits at the work site

The minimum requirements for first aid kits do not include over-the-counter medications or any other medication. There can be potential adverse outcomes related to medication use.

In Alberta, workplace first aid training does not include administration of medication. The training instructs workplace first aiders that they may assist an individual with their own medication in cases where the person is unable to take the medication without assistance.

Approved first aid training in Alberta teaches that the role of a first aider is to preserve life, alleviate suffering, minimize severity and impact of an injury or illness, and promote recovery. It is important that the first aider do no harm when providing first aid.

Key information

- First aiders may assist with medication in cases where an individual is unable to take his/her own medication without assistance.
- Employers considering including naloxone at the work site, should review the Government of Alberta bulletin “Naloxone in the workplace: OHS information for workers and employers”.

Legislative requirements

Employers must provide and maintain first aid kits that meet the requirements in Alberta’s Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code, Part 11, Section 178 and Schedule 2, Table 3.



In processes such as hazard assessment and control or emergency response planning, work sites may determine they need more than the minimum first aid services, supplies and equipment required by the OHS Code.

Contact Us

OHS Contact Centre

Anywhere in Alberta

- 1-866-415-8690

Edmonton & area

- 780-415-8690

Deaf or hearing impaired:

- 1-800-232-7215 (Alberta)
- 780-427-9999 (Edmonton)

PSI Online Reporting Service

alberta.ca/report-potentially-serious-incidents.aspx

Website

alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety.aspx

For more information

Naloxone in the Workplace: OHS Information for Workers and Employers (CH076)

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/ch076>

Workplace First Aiders and Legal Requirements (FA011)

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/fa011>

First Aid Records (FA009)

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/fa009>

Oxygen Equipment and Related Training Requirements at Work Sites (FA013)

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/fa013>

Automated External Defibrillators in the Workplace (FA015)

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/fa015>

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Regulation and Code

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Occupational Health and Safety

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