

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION



Position Statement	Medical Identification
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Issue

Many patients entering emergency departments are unable to communicate verbally as to whether they have allergies or other medical history, which could ultimately affect their immediate care and requirements.

Family members and medical records are not always immediately available.

NENA Position

Personal Medical Identification provides potentially life-saving information, thereby facilitating appropriate and timely treatment in an emergency situation.

Medical Identification products are a simple and universal method of communication of important information to EMS first-responders and emergency department first-receivers.

NENA supports the use of bracelet, watch or necklace identification as well as a wallet card that identifies patients' allergies, health history and other medical conditions.

NENA promotes Medical Identification programs, and the use of 24 hour toll free hot-lines for emergency medical information.

Rationale

Patient safety and quality patient care are goals of emergency nursing. The use of a Medical Identification product helps to minimize potential complications as well as appropriate care delays.

References

Medic Alert Foundation of Canada. Retrieved August 5, 2015 from <https://www.medicalert.ca/who-needs-it>

Universal Medical ID Canada. Retrieved August 5, 2015 from <http://canada.universalmedicalid.com/canada/medicalidsarecritical.php>