

# Medicines at public events

Medicines are used to manage health conditions. People wishing to bring their medicines inside public events should be responsible for them at all times. This document provides guidance for event organisers, promoters and contracted event staff about safe and reasonable practice in relation to medicines at events.

## WHY ARE MEDICINES IMPORTANT?

Some medicines are for maintaining health and wellbeing, or to prevent health conditions from worsening. Others are for the treatment of life-threatening or acute conditions. Medicines can be prescribed by a doctor or purchased directly from a pharmacy.

In all cases, the intended consumer should maintain control of their medicine at all times.

## MEDICINES AT PUBLIC EVENTS

Negative media attention around substance use and harms at public events has led to increased scrutiny of items brought in by patrons.

As a result, variable practices have emerged in relation to entry, searching, and access to medicines of all forms at public events and mass gatherings.

## MANAGING MEDICINES AT PUBLIC EVENTS

Event organisers should set expectations for patrons up-front and explain conditions of entry as part of the ticketing process, in line with the following guidance.

### It is reasonable practice to:

- expect that medicines are in their original packaging
- expect that patrons only bring in medicines for their own use, and only in a reasonable quantity
- encourage patrons to bring a relevant prescription or other proof of ownership – but this should not be an entry requirement

- provide a service (e.g. part of a cloak service) so patrons can access their medicine easily at any stage, if that is how they choose to control their medicine access
- make patrons aware of the on-site first aid and medical services when they are screened at entry or cloak a prescription medicine.

### It is not reasonable practice to:

- have medicines subjected to inspection by any on-site first aid or medical professionals
- have the on-site first aid or medical team determine whether to allow entry to a patron based on their belief of the applicability of the medicine
- reduce immediate access to life-saving prescription medicines (e.g. adrenaline auto-injectors and asthma reliever medicines)

## Our opinion

It is the opinion of the Chief Health Officer and Safer Care Victoria that any person bringing a medicine to a public event should remain in control of it at all times, bring only a reasonable quantity, and bring the medicine in its original packaging.

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