

Medications, Medical Supplies, and Medical Equipment Brought for Ministry

An inventory of all medications, medical supplies, and medical equipment brought into Nicaragua to be distributed to the people must be presented to the Ministry of Health in Managua. (If your team is not bringing these, please read the last paragraph.) This inventory must include bandages, gauze, alcohol, etc. A list of the medical supplies, medical equipment, and medications must be sent to Bill Cox at billcox@nicamissions.com three weeks prior to your trip. This list should be either on Microsoft Word or Excel, so it can be opened in Nicaragua. The list must include the name, count, unit, expiration date, and approximate value. Medications must have an expiration date at least 6 months from your arrival in Nicaragua. This information along with copies of the medical license (and specialty license, if applicable) of any physician, dentist, or medical personnel on your team who will be seeing patients, will be taken to the Ministry of Health in Managua. These licenses need to be scanned either as a JPEG or TIFF file and e-mailed to Bill Cox three weeks prior to your trip. Here is an example:

| MEDICATION | COUNT | Unit | EXPIRATION | Cost |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Getamycin Sulfate Opth Sol 0.3% | 36 (5ml) | bottle | Feb-08 | \$496.00 |
| Amoxicillin 125 mg (80mL) | 12 | bottle, susp | Aug-08 | \$89.00 |
| Augmentin ES-600 (125mL) | 36 | bottle, susp | Feb-08 | \$2,563.00 |
| Augmentin ES-600 (5mL) | 75 | bottle, susp | Mar-08 | \$214.00 |
| Cephalexin 500mg | 3000 | pill | Nov-07 | \$1,500.00 |
| Band-Aids | 1000 | 60 boxes | none | \$120.00 |
| Neomycin/Bacitracin 5mg Ointment (15g) | 12 | tube, small | Jul-09 | \$48.00 |

For medical equipment, give a brief description and how it is to be used. A representative from the Ministry of Health will be at the airport upon your arrival to make sure that your team gets through customs without any problem.

The reason this list and the copies of the medical licenses are needed three weeks in advance is because of the requirements of the Ministry of Health in Managua. Omar Alvarado, the executive director of El Ayudante in Nicaragua, must obtain a letter from a delegate of the Ministry of Health in Leon stating that the team is coming to provide services in the Leon/Matagalpa area. Omar must also write a letter to the Ministry of Health in Managua requesting their assistance at the airport to help the team move through customs without any problems or delay. The Ministry of Health schedules someone to meet the team at the airport which is sometimes 9:00 p.m. on Saturday night. When this procedure is followed, the team is escorted through customs.

After the team leaves, Omar is required to submit a report to the Ministry of Health stating the number of patients treated and the prescriptions that were distributed. If medications are left, they must be donated to a medical doctor or hospital. Omar must obtain a letter from the benefactor stating that they received the prescriptions.

Your team members may be asked at the airport in Managua if they have any prescription medications. This does not mean personal prescription medications. If your team does not have medications brought for ministry, then each team member should answer, "No."