

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Assisting Patient with Taking OTC and/or Own Prescription Medications

Georgia Scope of Practice allows all levels of EMT to assist patients in taking their own prescribed medications and/or over-the-counter medications. Medications must be approved by local medical Control by radio or phone.

Auto Injector Drug Delivery

- All levels of EMS licensure are allowed to administer epinephrine parentally to patients experiencing anaphylaxis. EMT and EMT-I may administer by auto-injector only.
- All levels of licensure are allowed to administer unit dose commercially pre-filled containers or auto injectors for the administration of life saving medications intended for self, peer, or patient rescue in hazardous materials situations.

Sub-Lingual Drug Delivery

- EMT and higher levels of licensure are allowed to administer certain medications via the sub-lingual route.
- Patients should be advised to allow the medications to dissolve under their tongue. They should not chew or swallow medications.
- Medications approved to be delivered via the sub-lingual route are:
 - Nitroglycerine tablets
 - Nitroglycerine spray

Nasal Drug Delivery

- Medications administered via the IN route require a higher concentration of drug in a smaller volume of fluid than typically used in the IV route. In general, administer no more than 1 mL of volume per nostril.
- Do not administer medications via the IN route if the patient's nose is bleeding or if nasal congestion or nasal discharge is present. Nasal administration does not always work for every patient and is less likely to be effective if the patient has been abusing vasoconstrictors, such as cocaine.
- Medications approved to be delivered IN are:
 - Naloxone

Nebulized Drug Delivery

- All levels of EMS licensure are allowed to deliver inhaled medications through a nebulizer or through use of metered-dose-inhaler to patients with difficulty breathing.
- Treatment should continue until medication in reservoir is depleted.
- Patient monitoring should include pulse, respiratory rate, and breath sounds