

# MINISTRY CENTER MEDICAL AND MEDICATION POLICIES

The Ministry Center is not a medical facility. As such, we do not distribute, diagnose, or prescribe anything for medical issues.

## 1. MEDICATIONS

Any prescribed medications by your physician that need to be taken while at the Ministry Center will be monitored by the Ministry Center staff to ensure they are taken as prescribed. You ultimately are responsible for making sure your medication is administered correctly.

Not all medications are permitted at the Ministry Center. Refer to the following for details of permitted medications:

**Not Permitted** - Antidepressants, Antianxiety, Benzodiazepines, Antipsychotics, Suboxone, or prescription sleep aids. **The longer list** - Antidepressants: Medications in this class include, but are not limited to: Celexa, Cymbalta, Effexor, Elavil, Lexapro, Prozac, Paxil, Remeron, Savella, Trazodone, Wellbutrin, Zoloft, Ativan, Klonopin, Xanax, or Valium, Antianxiety: Buspar, Vistaril, etc., prescription Sleep aids, Benzodiazepines, Antipsychotics: Medications in this class include, but are not limited to Abilify, Geodon, Mellaril, Seroquel, Clozaril, Haldol, Risperdal, Zyprexa Mood stabilizers: Lithium Mood Stabilizers, ADD Medications, Muscle Relaxants, Narcotic & other Pain medication: Darvocet, Hydrocodone, Lortab, Lyrica, Methodone, Oxycontin, Percocet, Suboxone, Ultram, Neurontin (Gabapentin).

- Other prescribed medication requires a letter from a physician with the reason for prescribing the medication.
- Medications must be checked-in to the staff of the Ministry Center, and they will be distributed once per week—enough for you to take exactly what is prescribed.
- Medications must be kept in a locked box (you need to bring one) to prevent other residents from having access to medications not prescribed for them.
- Under no circumstances are you to share or distribute your medications.
- It is crucial that when you arrive at the Ministry Center, all permitted prescriptions you need are full and have ample refills to get you through the duration of the program.
- Multivitamins and Vitamin C supplements are optional while at the Ministry Center. However, if you take them, you must bring them for yourself, and the bottles must be in a sealed (unopened) container.
- Any other supplements or vitamins need a written doctor's note and must also be in a sealed (unopened) container.
- You will not be allowed to start or stop any medication while you live at the Ministry Center without the express written consent of the primary care physician overseeing your care and the agreement of your counselor.
- Any over-the-counter medication brought with you must come onto the property unopened and still sealed.

## 2. MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

We understand that life is not always predictable, but due to the relatively short amount of time you'll be at the Ministry Center, the administrative challenges of appointments and transportation, and the limited staff at the Ministry Center, it is important that you resolve all known medical issues and appointments before coming to the Ministry Center. For example, dentistry, eye appointments, and so forth should be taken care of before coming to the Ministry Center.

Once you arrive at the Ministry Center, the following policies will be observed:

- Any medical issues need to be revealed to the staff immediately so that appropriate action can occur.
- All non-emergency medical needs must be addressed with the staff or your counselor.
- In the event of necessary medical appointments, a staff member or approved volunteer must be allowed to be in the appointment with you.
- You are required to disclose all of your past alcohol and drug use to medical professionals so that they can prescribe the best treatment possible.
- Doctor's treatments will be strictly followed. The treatment should be requested in writing from the doctor at the appointment.
- All medications must be requested as the most conservative over-the-counter pain medications. It is necessary that it be a non-addictive medication.
- The permitted and non-permitted medications in the previous section must still be followed if you continue to reside at the Ministry Center.
- Any prescriptions that are picked up while at the Ministry Center must be unopened until they have been checked in at the Ministry Center with the staff.
- This policy must be agreed to and signed by you upon admission.