

**NATO STANDARD**

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**MEDICAL AND DENTAL SUPPLY  
PROCEDURES**

**Edition A, Version 2**

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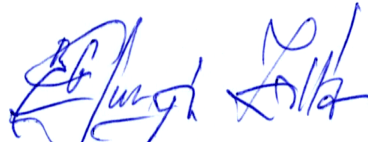
**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)**

**NATO STANDARDIZATION OFFICE (NSO)**

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16 June 2021

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<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>
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**1.1. AIM**

The aim of this publication is to facilitate the necessary cross-servicing amongst the Medical Services of the NATO Forces based on the standardization of:

- a. Procedures for the property exchange (replacement) of medical and dental non-expendable items.
- b. Required information on medical and dental supplies and pharmaceuticals.
- c. Method of identification of contents of syrettes, packages and self-injection devices.

**1.2. GENERAL**

This publication describes the standardized procedures for the exchange, at all levels within a theatre of operations, of non-expendable items of medical and dental property required to accompany patients during the process of evacuation from the battlefield to the appropriate medical or dental facility, the metric system of weight and measures for dosage information on the labels of medical supplies, the standardized colours and procedures to identify the contents of self-injection devices in article 2.4.

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<b>CHAPTER 2    MEDICAL AND DENTAL SUPPLY PROCEDURES</b>
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**2.1.    MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXCHANGE PROCEDURES**

1.     Each nation must return to the nation of origin all non-expendable medical or dental equipment accompanying a patient in transfer between nations. Whenever possible this should be carried out at the point of transfer. If this is not possible, items such as stretchers (litters), blankets, some splints etc. should be replaced by equivalent materiel.

Some items such as monitors, ventilators etc. might have to follow the patient throughout the evacuation. These items must be returned to the nation of origin as soon as possible. For that reason this kind of materiel must clearly be marked with the nation of origin in plain text. Optionally the flag of the nation may be added.

2.     Property exchange points at which items of equipment are sorted and exchanged with owner nations are to be arranged as circumstances may require at the appropriate levels related to the national administrative control and in accordance with the national supply procedures.

3.     Each exchange point is to be staffed with personnel familiar with the items of medical and dental property peculiar to each nation.

**2.2.    REQUIRED INFORMATION ON PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

1.     All medical materiel, where specific conditions for storage or transportation such as humidity or temperature limitations apply, must be clearly marked with all relevant information.

2.     All pharmaceuticals must be clearly marked with specific information on contents with the addition of generic name and the amount of contents in metric. All requirements for storage and conditions for transportation must be clearly indicated, if the requirements go beyond the "normal" conditions for storage and transportation of pharmaceuticals (for example drugs which are to be transported free from frost or preparations which must be protected from excessive heat, such as ointments or suppositories).

Ideally date of production, lot number, and date of expiry should appear. As a minimum date and time (if applicable) of expiry must be stated.

### **2.3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROVIDING NATIONS**

It is the responsibility of each nation providing support of medical material or pharmaceuticals to other nations to ensure that all required conditions for storage and transportation have been pursued until the point of transfer.

### **2.4. SELF-INJECTION DEVICES**

1. Self-injection devices containing the drug listed below are to be marked with one or more circular coloured bands encircling the device as follows:

- a) BRIGHT RED - Morphine.
- b) BRIGHT YELLOW - Atropine.
- c) LIGHT BROWN - Oxime.
- d) GREY - Nerve agent anti-convulsant.

2. When the contents of a self-injection device is a mixture of two or more drugs listed in Paragraph 1., one or more circular bands of the appropriate colour of each drug contained in the device is to be used.

3. For visibility at night or during low light conditions, fluorescent markings are recommended.

4. In addition to the markings prescribed in Paragraph 1., other markings may be placed, according to national legislation dealing with toxic matter, on the labels of self- injection devices.



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