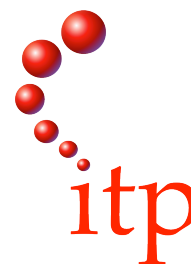


The ITP Support Association Platelet Reprint Series



No. 12 – Medical cards and

Platelet article dated: Jun 2010

Title: **Medical cards and jewellery**

Author: **Shirley Watson**

Many people with an ongoing medical condition like to carry a card or to wear jewellery that gives information about their medical condition and next of kin in an emergency situation. This is particularly useful should the person become unconscious, as on reaching hospital the medical staff will look for identification and also for a medical card such as those carried by asplenic, diabetics and epileptics, or by patients on steroids.

Emergency details are useful, not only for the unconscious patient. Sometimes even the trauma of a minor incident or accident can leave a person confused and unable to remember a simple thing like their own telephone number, and when feeling unwell or in distress it can be easier to hand over a card showing your details rather than spelling out your address or name of next of kin. Carrying a medical card and/or wearing alert jewellery can help give a sense of security to those with a chronic or rare medical condition.

There are various types of medical bracelets and necklaces available, some engraved and others using folded paper information strips. When choosing jewellery there are a few disadvantages to consider – engraved jewellery does not offer the opportunity for updating (without cost) when medical or personal details change; it is considered inadvisable for children under the age of 12 to wear necklaces; plated items can cause a skin reaction in

some people on medication in which case they should use solid gold or stainless steel only.



Boots and H.Samuel sell the *SOS Talisman* range of jewellery or it can be ordered on line by visiting the *SOS Talisman* website (<http://www.medical-bracelets.co.uk>). Patient information is stored on a folded strip of paper, so


handwriting needs to be very small and neat, but is easy to update. Additional paper strips can be purchased and are useful for temporary detail changes when going on holiday. Alternatively, Universal Medical ID (www.universalmedicalid.co.uk or 0800 055 6504)) features medical identification jewellery engraved with important information free of charge.



MedicAlert was founded in America and is a registered charity (<http://www.medicalert.org.uk>). In addition to purchasing their jewellery there is a membership fee and annual fee. Each member receives an emblem engraved with vital details in eight words, and personal ID number. Emergency and medical professionals can access patient details from the 24 hour emergency number given on the jewellery by quoting the personal

ID number on the jewellery.

On request the ITP Support Association can supply the ITP Emergency Card, which is personalised, cheaper than

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Emergency Card For medical and contact details please see over... 08/10 | Emergency contact: Mr T. Teepy 60 Steroids Avenue, London Tel: 0208 ZZZ 222 or 0777 ZZZ 222 | Medical conditions: ITP (a bleeding disorder) <small>© ITP Support Association 0844 7770 559</small> |
| | Drugs taken: Prednisolone | For medical details contact: Dr. (GP) Tel: 01 or Maze Hospital, Tel: 01 |
| Warning – do not give Aspirin | | |

This card belongs to **Mrs I. Teepy**
14 Platelet Drive, Havant, IVIG
Tel: 0844 7770 559

jewellery, waterproof and is produced at the Association headquarters. This card displays relevant and instant information about the patient – medical condition(s), allergies, drugs taken, next of kin, GP and hospital telephone numbers. This laminated waterproof card is the size of a credit card, and can fit into a purse, wallet or credit card holder. We invite a

minimum donation of £5 for a Emergency Card and all profits from the sale of the Emergency Cards go towards ITP Support Association funds, helping us continue our service to ITP sufferers. If personal circumstances or medications change we are happy to update a card free of charge, although donations are always welcome. Emergency card forms can be requested from The ITP Support Assoc. or downloaded from the website www.itpsupport.org.uk.