



Practice Guideline:
Health Screening at Day and Resident Camps
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These statements assume that a registered nurse (RN) or physician (MD) licensed by the State in which the camp is located oversees and periodically reviews the camp's health screening process. In addition, the overseeing RN or MD must be familiar with pertinent State requirements, American Camp Association (ACA) Standards, and Alliance for Camp Health (ACH) Standards of Camp Nursing practice germane to health screening.

1. The health screening process is initiated before campers and staff arrive. Written health histories should be reviewed (pre-screened) to determine if the individual is, indeed, a good fit for the camp program. Pay attention to special needs, medications, allergies, immunization records, recent injuries and illness, dietary needs, and the individual's ability to perform the essential functions associated with their camp role. Parents/guardians of minors should be contacted if information found during pre-screening requires clarification, verification, or additional information.
 - a. Pre-screenings should be performed by the same personnel listed in #4 of this document.
 - b. Individuals performing the pre-camp screening should understand the camp program, the camp's ability to meet special needs, and the interaction between health challenges and the camp's program.
 - c. A licensed health care provider should be consulted for any camper with a special need, acute or chronic medical issues, recent illness or injury, anaphylaxis allergy profile, or who will have medications at camp.
2. Face-to-face, individual health screening should be performed within 24 hours of the individual's arrival at camp.
3. This face-to-face screening follows the camp's written policy that describes the screening process, expected parameters, and what is done should an individual's screening fall outside those expected parameters.
4. The face-to-face screening process at camps not primarily serving campers with special medical needs may be performed by healthcare personnel or by an adult who is trained to the task. A licensed healthcare professional conducts screening at camps serving campers with special medical needs. *NOTE: Depending on State regulation, using licensed practical/vocational nurses for the screening process may require direct, at-camp supervision by an RN or MD.*
5. Health screening establishes each individual's health status upon arrival and, at minimum, includes the following:
 - a. Observable evidence of communicable disease, injury, illness, and/or active health issues;
 - b. Verification and updates to the individual's health history form;
 - c. Confirmation of medication(s) to be given during camp session, including as-needed or rescue medications;
 - d. Verification of food intolerances, aversions, and special diets as well as other allergies (e.g., to bees, molds, dust).
6. The health screening process is documented. That documentation includes date/time of screening, who did it, and the results of the screening process.
7. Results of health screening are shared with appropriate camp personnel on a need-to-know basis and in consultation with the camp's administration.

References

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