

Time and Information is everything – Protect yourself now!

Christchurch has been in our thoughts often during the past year and it reminds us that sometimes we have very little control. We all need to consider what would happen if we were involved in a medical emergency and the power is out. How do we remain protected?

Natural disasters like Christchurch don't occur every day, but other risks surround us – who ever plans to be involved in a significant trauma like a car accident, for a critical illness to strike us down, or become unconscious? This risk is multiplied when you have diagnosed medical conditions, allergies, medical warnings or when you are taking ongoing medications. What if you are alone and dependant on someone in the community because an ambulance is some time away or cannot get through, or you are travelling overseas? Your first responder may be your neighbour, someone on the street, in a supermarket, in a workplace, motel or school.

The quality of your medical information is also important as is trustworthy access to your vital clinically authenticated information. It can be the difference between life and death.

You also have rights under the Health and Disability Commissioner: 'Code of Health and Disability Services - Consumer Rights' and the Health Information Privacy Code 1994. So what can you do to take ownership and control of your personal health in an emergency? The answer is possibly closer to home and easier than you may think.

Did you know that the World Health Organisation⁺ recommends MedicAlert. So too do many other reputable health organisations like the World Allergy Organisation[^]. Why do they do this? – Because MedicAlert works! Utilisation of an internationally recognised medical identification service is important so you and your vital information can be reliably identified, where ever you go. Now the Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand has joined a growing number of organisations internationally recommending people with diagnosed medical risks enrol with MedicAlert.

To protect your safety the MedicAlert[®] Emblem is protected and its use strictly controlled. Only MedicAlert requires your health information to be clinically validated by your health practitioner, before they engrave it on your MedicAlert Emblem. This is why MedicAlert is trusted and respected by clinicians.

In times of need when you or a family member cannot speak, are unconscious, confused, suffer anxiety, experience memory loss, a 'Senior' moment or the power is out, a MedicAlert Emblem can speak for you! MedicAlert services over four million people like you around the world and continues to grow. The Service is utilised by people with Muscular Dystrophy and many other diagnosed Medical Conditions, Drug Reaction Warnings, Allergy Risks, Medical Devices, Implants, people who wear Contact Lenses, with an Advance Directive or who are taking ongoing medications that must be known in a medical emergency.

People of all ages utilise MedicAlert, including young children. With so many people utilising the service, seeing someone wearing a MedicAlert Emblem is considered very normal, it's respected and recognised. What's more – You can choose to have a secure online account that lets you see when your vital personal and health information stored on file with MedicAlert is accessed. Your Doctor can send MedicAlert an Electronic Referral*, so your medical information is kept up-to-date as it changes. You can also personally log-in to maintain your personal and emergency contact information as and when it changes while in New Zealand or while travelling abroad.



MedicAlert's Service also includes an internationally accessible Emergency Hotline. To protect your privacy, only authorised Registered Health Practitioners and Emergency Services can directly access your vital emergency information stored on file.



Your MedicAlert Emblem helps you stay in control and provides real peace of mind for friends and family. MedicAlert gives every person the choice of a **FREE CUSTOM ENGRAVED MedicAlert Emblem** when they first enrol (free emblem options not shown). Alternately, you can choose to purchase an Emblem that you feel better suits your personal preferences, at a discounted price.

MedicAlert is a New Zealand registered charity, donations are warmly welcomed and financial assistance may be available for people experiencing financial hardship.

To find out more or Enrol Today:

W: www.MedicAlert.co.nz – click the button

P: 0800 840 111

E: inquiry@MedicAlert.co.nz



Or Ask your Doctor to complete either an Enrolment Form or Electronic Referral (*requires Medtech32).

⁺WHO Ref: WHO/NMH/MNC/CRA/03.2; www.worldallergy.org/professional/who_paa2003.pdf

[^]WAO Ref: http://www.worldallergy.org/professional/allergic_diseases_center/drugallergy