

The Airline Medical Kit

By Allan J. Schwartz, CRNA, DDS

Have you ever sat there in seat 9B, munching on your second scrumptious bag of peanuts, and enjoying that delicious glass of soda pop, when suddenly the passenger in seat 11D collapses? You are a CRNA, you want to help, you are used to working in stressful situations, what can you do?

Every airliner now carries a new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Medical Kit. Each airline's kit may vary in its contents, but there are certain minimal items that are required by the FAA in each kit. This kit is in addition to the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which is also carried on board.

So that you will be prepared, here is a complete list of the American Airlines Enhanced Medical Kit.

Contents of the Top Tray

Ampules/Vials

Atropine 1mg/ml, 1ml vial (1)

*Benadryl 50mg/ml, 1ml vial (2)

Diazepam 5mg/ml, 2ml vial (1) with a 22ga x 1½" needle (1) and 3ml syringe (1)

*Epinephrine 1:1000 or 1mg/ml, 1ml vial (2) for allergies.

Narcan/Naloxone 0.4mg/ml, 1ml vial (2)

Phenergan 25mg/ml, 1ml vial (2)

Solu-Medrol 125mg (1)

Inhalant:

Albuterol Inhaler 17gm (1)

Needles:

*18ga x 1½" (1)

*20ga x 1½" (1)

*25ga x 1¼" (1)

*25ga x ⅝" (1)

Syringes:

*3ml w/o needle (1)

*12ml w/o needle (1)

*Insulin Syringe w/needle (1)

Oral Medications:

Acetaminophen Tablets 325mg (2)
Aspirin Tablets 325mg (2)
Benadryl/Diphenhydramine Caplets 25mg (2)
Glucose Gel 31grains (1) [A grain is 60mg]
*Nitro Tabs 25 tabs 0.4mg 1/150grains (1)

Prefilled Syringes:

Atropine 10ml 0.1mg/ml with a 21ga x 1½” needle (1)
*Dextrose 50% 50ml with an 18ga x 1½” needle (1)
*Epinephrine 10ml 1:10,000 with a 21ga x 1½” needle (2) Cardiac
Lidocaine 2% 5ml with a 21ga x 1½” needle (2)
Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% 50ml 50meq with an 18ga x 1½” needle (1)

Instruments and Equipment:

Tourniquet (1)
Foley Catheter (1)
Black Nylon Resuscitator and Suction Bag
Ambu Resuscitator (1)
Manual Suction Units for Adult and Infant (1 each)

Additional Materials:

*A Stat Kit Reference Guide (1)
American Heart Association Algorithms (1)
Usage Tag (1)

Contents of the Bottom Tray

Airway Equipment:

*Airways – small (1), medium (1), large (1)
Endotracheal Tubes with Stylets – 3mm (1), 5mm (1), 7mm (1)
Laryngoscopes – Small (1), Large (1) and one light source is available
CPR Microshield (1)

Instruments:

Alcohol Sponges (2)
Gauze Sponges 3x3 (2)
*Gloves (2)
Hemostat (2)
Iodine Wipes (2)
Needle Holder (1)
Scissors (1)
Sutures, Prolene (1)

Sutures, Vicryl (1)
Tape, Hypoallergenic (1)
Thumb Forceps (1)

I.V. Equipment:

0.9% Sodium Chloride, 500ml (1)
I.V. Set with 2 Y-Connectors (1)
I.V. Catheter 18ga x 2" (2)
I.V. Catheter 22ga x 1 1/4" (2)

Monitoring Equipment:

*Stethoscope (1)
*Blood Pressure – Digital (1)
Thermometer, oral strips (2)

*denotes the minimum items that are required by the FAA.

You successfully helped that passenger in seat 11D. You have provided a great service. CRNAs are valuable. Enjoy the rest of your flight to the AANA meeting in Boston.