

Diabetes & Air Travel

What YOU Should Know....



Subsequent to the September 11th attacks, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has revised security measures that affect passengers with diabetes. The following revised security measures only apply to travel within the 50 United States.

The following is a minimum requirement only and air carriers may have other requirements that may impact a passenger's ability to board with diabetes equipment and supplies. Accordingly, the FAA and the American Diabetes Association strongly urge each passenger to call the airline carrier at least one day in advance of his or her scheduled flight to confirm what that airline's policy is with regard to diabetes medication and supplies. Be advised that each airline's policy is subject to change.

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1. Passengers may board with syringes or insulin delivery systems only if they can produce a vial of insulin with a professional, pharmaceutical pre-printed label that clearly identifies the medication. **No exceptions will be made.**

Since the prescription label is often on the outside of the box containing the vial of insulin, the FAA recommends that passengers refrain from discarding their insulin box and come prepared with their vial of insulin in its original pharmaceutically labeled box.

2. For passengers who have diabetes and must test their blood glucose levels, boarding with their lancets is acceptable as long as the **lancets are capped**, and as long as the **lancets are brought on with the glucose meter that has the manufacturer's name embossed on the meter** (i.e. One Touch meters say "One Touch," Accucheck meters say "Accucheck").
3. Glucagon is dispensed and normally kept in a pre-printed labeled plastic container or box. The American Diabetes Association advises those people with diabetes who are traveling to keep their glucagon kit intact in its original pre-printed pharmaceutically labeled container.
4. Due to forgery concerns, prescriptions and letters of medical necessity will not be accepted as an alternative to the above.

The Association has received a small number of complaints from passengers who have encountered difficulty when trying to pass through airport security with syringes and lancets. Should a passenger be denied boarding a flight or be faced with any other unforeseen diabetes related difficulty because of security measures, he or she should ask to speak to the security supervisor or contact the FAA grounds security commissioner at the departing airport.

In addition, please contact the American Diabetes Association at 703-549-1500 x-2108 so that they may be kept informed of airline protocols and security. For more information from the FAA, please call 1-866-289-9673.

Adapted from:

www.diabetes.org

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