



VIAL OF LIFE PROGRAM

The Drexel Heights Fire District's Vial of Life program provides a simple, easy, and effective method of communicating with Emergency Medical Services personnel during an emergency. This life saving program conveys vital information about allergies, medications, and medical conditions. The Vial of Life is easy to use and provides an added layer of protection for you and your family in the event of a medical emergency.

The vial is a small plastic container that holds a sheet of paper with easy to read medical information, such as your name, medical history, any known allergies, present medications, and an emergency contact person. In addition, the form asks for any information regarding Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders to be included in the vial. The kit includes a sticker to be placed on the refrigerator where the vial is kept. When emergency responders see the sticker, they will know where to find your life-saving medical information.

The first step of participation in the program is to contact Drexel Heights Fire District at (520) 883-4341 for a vial medical information sheet(s), and identification stickers. While completing the medical information sheet, it is very important to print all information as clearly as possible and to consult with your Doctor if you are unable to answer specific medical questions. After the medical information sheet is completed, it is placed inside of the plastic vial. "VIAL OF LIFE" stickers are then placed on the vial and the refrigerator door.

In the event of an emergency, rescuers will see the stickers and recognize the presence of a Vial of Life. Since the Fire District sponsors this program, they know to check the refrigerator for the sticker to determine if the vial is inside. Once the vial is retrieved, life saving information may be obtained, even if the patient is unable to speak. The information contained inside the vial will identify the patient's current medical history, allergies and medications, as well as insurance information and who to contact in the event of an emergency.

The Vial of Life Program is designed to speak for you when you are unable to speak for yourself. The information contained within the vial will provide pre-hospital and hospital providers with essential details that will aid in providing appropriate medical treatment. You may have a separate vial information sheet for each member of the household in the vial. Be sure to place the persons name on each of the vial information sheets. If you have any questions or wish to request a Vial of Life, please contact the Drexel Heights Fire District at (520) 883-4341.

We hope that you'll never need to put the *Vial of Life* to use. But, you, your family and our emergency responders will certainly be glad to have it in the event of an emergency in your home.