



CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA
At the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center
A Journey for a Lifetime

URGENT UPDATED INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS

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Dear Parents,

After each summer, we evaluate all aspects of our camp operations in order to determine how we can provide your children with the very best camp experience. Whether it is a new program, or a change in procedure, we are always looking to improve and enhance.

After careful consideration, evaluation and approval from camp's Executive Committee last week, we have decided to improve the method in which our camp nurses have been administering medications to our campers. While our health center is a top facility, staffed by a terrific team of healthcare personnel, we have found a dramatic rise in the number of campers on medication.

The increase of campers on medication is of major concern. With this increase of medication being dispensed at camp, we face the issue of finding the safest, most efficient way to dispense the meds. We looked at other camps, as well as facilities that dispense large amounts of medicine for suggestions. After examining a number of alternatives, we found that pre-packaging medications is the best possible solution for us.

The company we have chosen to service our families, *CampMeds Inc.*, provides a convenient service that dispenses, packages and ships medications directly to overnight camps in the U.S. A former camp nurse founded the company and they have been packaging medications for the camping industry for the past five summers. This pre-packaging program is in compliance with all state regulations regarding medication packaging for summer camps.

Beginning this summer, our new policy and procedure for dispensing and administering medication will now require that camp families register and send to CampMeds prescription(s) in order to have all of your child's pill form medication dispensed, pre-packaged and sent to camp prior to their arrival from CampMeds. This includes:

- All pills taken daily AND as needed (prescription and non-prescription)
- vitamins

*** Please keep in mind that our camp stocks the most common over-the-counter items, such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Benadryl, etc., which do not need to be provided by parents. Pill form medications will no longer be accepted at camp.**

Medications that are in pill form will be individually packaged and sealed according to date and time of administration by CampMeds. Each individual packet may contain one or more pills prescribed to be given at the same time. This method of dispensing medicine during summer camp will minimize potential med errors, ensuring that every camper gets the correct medication and dosage, at the right time, on the right day. Our nurses will now have more time to devote to your child's other healthcare needs.

Please remember that all meds at camp are dispensed at mealtimes and bedtime. Only if medically necessary and a specific time is written on the prescription, will the med be dispensed at a different time of day. You are responsible to check that your child's prescriptions are written for exactly how and when the med is to be given.

In addition, we also wish to remind you of our supplemental medication administration fee of \$25 per medication, up to a maximum of \$100 per camper (4 or more medications) which applies to ALL medication administered by the Marp. This supplemental fee applies to all medications, whether needed daily or *as needed*. Fees are per medication per CAMPER, per session, not per family. However, IF your child carries with him/her an asthma inhaler or EPI PEN, you do not need to pay this fee for these medications.

We want to be clear that we do expect 100% participation from families with campers that will need pill form medication and/or vitamins at camp, with the exception of medications in other than pill form such as liquid medications, inhaled meds, injectables and drops. These medications should be brought to camp on the first day. For families with campers that need pill form medications but do not send the prescription(s) to CampMeds, and send the medications to camp instead, you will be charged an ADDITIONAL \$75 service fee per medication. The ONLY other exception to this procedure is if *CampMeds* notifies us that they are unable to accept your insurance. For example, Kaiser is NOT an accepted insurance company by *CampMeds*; therefore, families with Kaiser should NOT register with *CampMeds*. Kaiser insured families (and/or others notified by *CampMeds* that their insurance is not accepted by the pharmacy) should bring their medications to camp on the first day(as in past years). If your camper does not take medication or vitamins, you do not need to register with *CampMeds*.

If your camper will be taking medication in pill form at camp this summer, please read the following detailed letter, and visit their website, www.campmeds.com for additional information and to register your camper.

NEW FOR SUMMER 2008: ALL LEFT OVER PILL FORM MEDICATIONS (UP TO THE 30 DAY SUPPLY) WILL NOW BE RETURNED AT THE END OF EACH SESSION. MEDICATIONS WILL BE SENT BACK:

- A) ON YOUR CHILD'S BUS. PARENTS MUST SEE THE BUS COUNSELOR TO PICK UP THIS MEDICATION.**
 - B) IN YOUR CHILD'S CARRYON LUGGAGE, FOR THOSE CHILDREN FLYING HOME**
 - C) IN THE MARP, FOR THOSE CHILDREN PICKED UP AT CAMP**
- **HANDLING AND SHIPPING COSTS AND PRIVACY CONCERNS PRECLUDE CAMP FROM RETURNING MEDICATIONS BY ANY METHOD OTHER THAN THE ABOVE. MEDICATIONS NOT PICKED UP AT THE BUS OR FROM THE MARP WILL BE DISPOSED OF IMMEDIATELY. ****

We are confident that this program will help us achieve our primary goal; *the health, well-being and safety of your child.*

B' shalom,

**Rabbi Daniel Greyber, Executive Director
Zach Lasker, Assistant Director
Michele Lavin, Ramah Co-Head Nurse
Mala Reich, Ramah Co-Head Nurse**

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN MEDICATION POLICY

Dear Camp Parents,

This summer Camp Ramah in California is implementing a new procedure for administering medications. Camp families are **required** to register for the service of **CampMeds Inc.** to dispense and package all of your child's medicine in **pill form** for camp. **All prescription and non-prescription pills (including vitamins) that your child takes on a daily or as needed basis** will be dispensed by our pharmacy and individually packaged, sealed and sorted according to day and time of administration. These packets will be labeled with your child's name, medicine, dosage, date and time to be given. Prescriptions that are not in pill form (liquids, inhalers, etc), can be dispensed as well. Our system ensures that each camper receives their correct medicine at the correct time. All meds will be shipped to camp prior to your child's arrival.

What you need to do: Register on www.CampMeds.com (you may register prior to obtaining prescriptions)

1. Note your ID number you will receive when registered. Print out receipt from registration.
2. Obtain original prescriptions **written for 30 day increments**. Write ID number on top corner of each prescription. ***Do not send us the medication, only the written prescriptions.**
3. If your child is staying over 30 days, prescriptions must be written with refills. Unused meds will be sent home from camp
4. **For Controlled Substances:** If your child is staying longer than 30 days, law requires a new prescription to be written for each 30 day supply. No refills and only 30 days worth of meds should be written on the prescription. **Two separate 30 day prescriptions are required.** Send all prescriptions together.
5. Prescriptions are filled as written. It is your responsibility to confirm all prescriptions are written exactly how (daily or as needed) and when your child takes the medication. Please refer to the FAQ's for details.
6. Non-prescription meds/vitamins; physician's authorization is required.
7. Include a copy of both sides of your insurance/prescription card.
8. Mail prescriptions, registration receipt and copy of insurance card directly to:
CampMeds PO Box 267037, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33326-7037

Fees: There is no additional cost to you for this service. Your camp is paying the packaging fee.

You are responsible for the cost of medication and will be required to enter your credit card information when you register your child. It will be used by the pharmacy for all medication charges and co pays.

Deadlines: ABOVE ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED 30 DAYS PRIOR TO CAMP START DATE

A late fee of \$25 will be charged to your credit card if any of the items above are received after the deadlines.

Please be aware that your credit card will be charged the shipping cost for any med change or if additional meds are ordered and sent to camp after your initial medication and/or refills have been sent.

Email Notification: You are notified by email when **CampMeds** receives your prescriptions and when meds are sent to camp. Contact us if you do not receive a confirming email within one week of sending prescriptions.

Insurance/Prescription Meds: The **CampMed's** licensed pharmacy partner, **Anaheim Plaza Pharmacy** accepts most insurance plans. (Except Kaiser) They will verify your insurance, and bill for prescription drugs. You are responsible for the co-payments and deductibles which will appear on your credit card statement during the summer months after your child returns home. *****All of your med charges will appear on your credit card from Anaheim Plaza Pharmacy.** You are responsible to notify **CampMeds** of any changes to your credit card and/or insurance plan. If the pharmacy is not a provider for your plan, you will be notified and given the option to contact camp for alternative arrangements.

Meds Not Covered by Insurance: Will be charged to your credit card by **Anaheim Plaza Pharmacy**.

Please refer to our website www.CampMeds.com for registration and details. For questions or if you are unable to register online, contact **CampMeds** at 954-577-0025 or info@CampMeds.com. **Turn page for FAQ's.**