

# Medical Screening: Option and Answers

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# Introductions

Who are we?

What do we know?

# Agenda

- ▶ Survey
- ▶ Three approaches
- ▶ Role of the medical advisor
- ▶ High risk conditions and common medical issues
- ▶ Americans with Disabilities Act
- ▶ Related issues

# Survey

- ▶ Do you...
  - ▶ collect medical information?

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# Survey

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  - ▶ collect medical information?
  - ▶ use it to do medical screening?
  - ▶ use it primarily to give to providers in the event of an emergency?
  - ▶ have a medical advisor?

# Survey

- ▶ Do you...
  - ▶ collect medical information?
  - ▶ use it to do medical screening?
  - ▶ use it primarily to give to providers in the event of an emergency?
  - ▶ have a medical advisor?
- ▶ Have your medical forms been reviewed by an attorney?



Why do we collect medical information or do screening?

What are the goals?

## Three approaches

1. In-house medical screening
2. Participants self-screen
3. No screening

# In-house screening

- ▶ Solicit medical information
- ▶ Review by a medical screener
  - ▶ Qualifications of screener
  - ▶ Use supplemental questionnaire
  - ▶ Confer with providers

# In-house screening

- ▶ Use a medical screening guide
- ▶ May confer with medical advisor
- ▶ Make decisions on participation

# Self-screening

- ▶ Participant is responsible for determining if he or she can participate safely
- ▶ May require a physician's signature
  - ▶ Give info to physician to make assessment—e.g. conditions (cold, heat, high altitude, etc.), activities (rock climbing, kayaking, etc.), evacuation delays
- ▶ May still solicit medical information to be used in the event of an emergency
- ▶ Organization can retain “veto” power

# No screening

- ▶ Collect NO information
- ▶ May collect some information for use in an emergency

# Role of the medical advisor

- Create/edit medical screening standards
- Train staff on screening
- Answer questions when staff are screening

# Medical screening guide

What's available?

What does it cover?



**What do we want to know?**

# What should you ask?

- ▶ Environment-specific
- ▶ Population-specific
- ▶ Experience-specific
- ▶ Industry standards
- ▶ Organizational exclusions

# Controversial or common medical issues

- ▶ Anticoagulation
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Seizure disorder
- ▶ Pregnancy

# Limitations under the Americans with Disability Act

- ▶ What questions can you ask?
  - ▶ Ability to do activities
  - ▶ Ability to participate safely

# Limitations under the Americans with Disability Act

Can you ask about mental health?

# Limitations under the Americans with Disability Act

What's the proper process?

Individual assessments

# Challenges to your decision

- ▶ Participant/family disagreement with the organization's decision
- ▶ Conflicting medical opinions

## Related issues

- ▶ Consent for treatment
- ▶ Paying for services
- ▶ Confidentiality
- ▶ Consent to give/get info
- ▶ Explain potential delay in evac or treatment



**What should you do?**

## Take aways

- ▶ Decide which medical screening approach is best (after conferring with your medical advisor, attorney, and staff).
- ▶ Formulate or revise your medical questionnaire to clearly reflect which approach you are using.
- ▶ Limit questions to those that are necessary; avoid being excessively intrusive.
- ▶ Be clear about the medical screening process. Avoid categorical denials.

Questions?