

Meet your local street medics!

Chicago Action Medical has provided health support at protests for social change since 2002. Free grassroots medical care at protests is a tradition going back centuries worldwide. The current model of “street medicine” is based on work pioneered by the Medical Committee for Human Rights in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960’s.

“We are here to help liberation movements sustain themselves by providing them with emotional & physical first aid & aftercare — emphasizing self-care, sharing of knowledge, and mutual aid.”

-- Rosehip Medic Collective

Street medics are activists who have taken a 20-hour (or longer) training in first aid that focuses on the most common injuries and ailments that occur at protests. A few street medics are also herbalists, nurses, or EMTs, and bring that additional knowledge to their role.

What do street medics do?

- Emphasize the importance of consent for any care provided
- Work in teams of at least two medics to offer do-no-harm first aid and natural remedies
- Help people access a higher level of care in the event that it is needed
- Provide referrals for follow-up or ongoing health care
- Conduct workshops on protest health and safety
- Educate protesters about individual health issues
- Participate in action planning meetings to advocate that protests be planned in a healthy way
- Provide public health interventions such as handwashing stations to prevent illness
- Spread calm
- Work at all kinds of protests, regardless of the likelihood of civil disobedience or injuries, to ensure a caring atmosphere and increase accessibility
- Participate with other protesters in jail support teams, in order to offer care for any injuries arrestees may have

What DON'T on-duty street medics do?

- Dispense over-the-counter medication
- Supply water or food (*we DO encourage organizers to do this in order to promote protester well-being... hint hint!*)
- Participate in protest tactics like chanting, holding banners, or handing out leaflets
- Force care on anyone
- Act outside of our training
- Work alone
- Charge money
- Cooperate or share information with police, ICE or other authorities
- Organize jail support, or act as the only participants
- Participate in illegal actions

Ways to help street medics so we can help you:

- Spread calm, not rumors
- Use our batsignal: Call out "Medic!" when you or your friends need urgent help
- Form a privacy circle or make space for medics to provide care
- Photograph police, not patients

Want to find out about the next street medic training? Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/CrA6P> for the Chicago Action Medical email list!

Want street medics to show up at your next protest? Write to chicagoactionmedical@riseup.net as far in advance as possible with a start time & meeting place, as well as a point person we can call during the protest with any urgent concerns.