

Dear American Medical ID,

I have recently been diagnosed with diabetes and have so much to learn about the condition and how to treat it and change my lifestyle to accommodate my new situation. I consequently subscribed to two diabetes publications and in an article in one of them the issue of travel was discussed. Since my husband and I travel often, I was immediately interested. We were about to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Hong Kong, Macau, and China, and since it was the first time flying since my diagnosis, it would be my first experience with airports and plane travel with my testing supplies – uh, oh! –lancets could be construed as weapons on an aircraft!

I got one of your forms from Duke University Hospital where I am a part of a medical plan as a former employee, and since the trip was eminent, I called and ordered a necklace and after talking to your representative, I decided to order a rush delivery so it arrived in plenty of time.

Very apprehensive about this new experience, I wore the necklace through the metal detectors and informed the TSA people that my carry-on contained my testing supplies while flashing the necklace. I had no difficulties and surmised that perhaps this is more commonplace than I imagined. All the way through Raleigh-Durham, Chicago Midway, Seattle, and Tokyo airports I had no problems. While the necklace wasn't needed to save my life, it proved to be well known and reduced my travel anxiety level considerably. On the return trip, I wore it so that it was visible but forgot to tell the Security people about my testing supplies and never had any problems.

I will always travel with my necklace and hope it never is necessary to save my life, but I certainly will fly with more confidence wearing it and will feel more secure both traveling and on my daily two-mile walks wearing it in case I get into physical trouble.

Beverly R.