



PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING RADIO MEDICAL ADVICE & ASSISTANCE AT SEA

Radio medical advice is available free of charge to provide support in cases where an individual suffers either illness or an accident at sea. The advice is intended to supplement the

first aid training of the vessel's crew and the written guidance available, for example in the Ship Captain's Medical Guide.

To obtain radio medical advice Masters and Skippers should **first contact HM Coastguard**.

Contact should first be made on either **MF DSC, VHF DSC, VHF 16 or INMARSAT**. Users should avoid using mobile telephones for seeking advice or assistance.

Urgent calls for assistance may be broadcast using the normal urgency signal "PAN PAN" as follows;

"PAN PAN" (sent three times to gain priority)

"MEDICO" (which gives priority over routine calls for **UK Coastguard**)

"Name of Coastguard Station"

"This is [Vessel name]" (sent three times)

"Call Sign" (sent once)

to a Foreign Coast Radio Station/Coastguard **"I require medical advice/assistance"**

"Over"

The Coastguard will link the caller to a doctor at one of the designated centres for radio medical advice on a suitable VHF Channel MF frequency. Whilst the call is being placed will need to establish basic information as detailed below.

The Master or Skipper will also be required to seek medical advice before evacuation can be arranged for an injured or sick person. NOTE: The doctor will make the decision whether or not the patient has to be evacuated from the vessel for immediate attention. The doctor will advise the Coastguard who will then organise a MEDEVAC.

INFORMATION REQUIRED BY COASTGUARD		
NAME OF VESSEL	CALLSIGN	NATIONALITY
SHIP'S POSITION (Latitude-Longitude)	NEXT PORT OF CALL	ETA AND NEAREST PORT IF REQUIRED TO DIVERT
PATIENTS DETAILS (see form over)		
MEDICATION AVAILABLE ON BOARD THE VESSEL		

INFORMATION USEFUL TO THE DOCTOR				
PATIENTS NAME		AGE		GENDER
NATIONALITY			LANGUAGE	
RESPIRATION	PULSE RATE	TEMPERATURE	BLOOD PRESSURE	
LOCATION OF PAIN				
NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY, INCLUDING APARENT CAUSE AND RELATED HISTORY				
SYMPTONS (visible)			SYMPTOMS (felt by patient)	
MEDICATION (all given)	TYPE	TIME	FORM	AMOUNTS
TIME OF LAST FOOD CONSUMPTION		ABILITY OF PATIENT TO EAT, DRINK, WALK OR BE MOVED		
SCALE OF MEDICAL CHEST			MEDICAL TRAINING ON BOARD	
SUITABLE CLEAR AREA AVAILABLE FOR HELICOPTER HOIST OPERATIONS				
AGENTS NAME		AGENTS ADDRESS		AGENTS PHONE NUMBER
LAST PORT OF CALL			NEXT PORT OF CALL WITH ETA	
ADDITIONAL PERTINENT REMARKS				

The above boxes should be filled in where possible prior to talking to a doctor. This information will greatly assist the doctor in making a diagnosis and deciding what action has to be taken.