

CHAPTER 5

STATIONS TRANSMITTING MEDICAL ADVICE

500A.	General.....	5-3
500B.	Station List.....	5-5

CHAPTER 5

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500A. General

RCC & Telemedical Assistance Service (TMAS)

Telemedical Assistance Service (TMAS) is a medical service permanently staffed by doctors qualified in conducting remote consultations and well versed in the particular nature of treatment on board ship. RCCs are able to communicate with vessels 24 hours a day to coordinate medical advice and assistance, sometimes through a TMAS as well as coordinate medical evacuations from vessels at sea if warranted. There are many free and paid services that provide medical advice to ships 24 hours a day world-wide. See section 500B for additional information.

Medical Advice Communications

To obtain radio medical advice by reliable voice radio communications urgent calls for assistance may be broadcast using the normal Urgency prowords "PAN PAN" as follows:

- "PAN PAN" 3 times
- "All Stations" 3 times or specific station if known
- "This is (ship name)" 3 times
- "Call sign (call sign)"
- "In Position (give position)"
- "I require medical advice"
- "Over"

The INMARSAT systems offer two Special Access Codes (SAC)s which can be used for medical advice or medical assistance at sea.

- SAC 32 is used to obtain medical advice. The Land Earth Station (LES) will provide a direct link with the TMAS when this code is used.

- SAC 38 is used when the condition of an injured or sick person on board a ship justifies medical assistance (evacuation to shore or services of a doctor on board). This allows the call to be routed to the associated RCC.

Once a station acknowledges the call, they will direct the caller to a working frequency and is obliged to seek basic details of the vessel and patient.

New satellite systems are emerging which can support internet based medical communications for examinations such as video conferencing. Pub. 102 International Code of Signals can be referenced to overcome language barriers and communication difficulties between vessel and aircraft crews, survivors and SAR personnel. Good communications are essential for an effective telemedical assistance service. Telemedical communications are considered to be safety or urgency communications and as such should have priority over routine traffic and will normally be free of charge to the mariner.



STATIONS TRANSMITTING MEDICAL ADVICE

The International Radio Medical Center (C.I.R.M.)

The International Radio Medical Center (C.I.R.M.) provides round-the-clock **free** Italian radio-medical assistance to patients on ships flying any flag all over the world. C.I.R.M. can also decide and coordinate, wherever possible, the evacuation of a patient from a ship by naval craft or helicopter, cooperating mainly with Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs) and, if necessary, along with other rescue organizations. They suggest calling before administering any medicines.

Telex: 612068 C.I.R.M. I

Telephone: +39 06 59290263

Mobile GSM Telephone: +39 348 3984229

Fax: +39 06 5923333

E-mail: telesoccorso@cirm.it

Italian Radio Coastal Stations: Ask for C.I.R.M.

Telex: MEDRAD or DH MEDICO to obtain priority of transmission.

When requesting radio medical assistance the following information will be needed:

Ship Information:

- Vessel name and call sign.
- Ship's position, port of departure, destination, ETA.
- Medicine chest available on board.

Patient Information:

- Date of birth, nationality, rank.
- Temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respiratory rates.
- Onset of the symptoms, accurate description of symptoms, location of pain, associated symptoms.
- Other medical problems of the patient, with special reference to drug or other allergies, chronic illness and their eventual treatment.
- In case of accident, where and how it took place.
- Therapy already administered to the patient.

Medical Transports (MEDEVAC)

The term "medical transports", as defined in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, refers to any means of transportation by land, water or air, whether military or civilian, permanent or temporary, assigned exclusively to medical transportation and under the control of a competent authority of a party to a conflict, or of neutral States and of other States not parties to an armed conflict, when these ships, craft, and aircraft assist the wounded, the sick and the shipwrecked.

The decision to MEDEVAC a patient is a matter for the ship's Master to decide on the basis of medical advice that is provided by the TMAS. Consideration must be given to other factors, including the environmental conditions (weather, sea state, etc.) that may prevail at the time of possible extraction and the ship's geographical location. The availability and type of recovery platform(s) may also affect the strategy or decision to MEDEVAC. Accordingly, close and ongoing consultation may be required between the ship's Master, the ship's agent, the TMAS, the RCC, the operating agency/crew of the rescue platform and the receiving medical facility.

Medical evacuations are generally undertaken by helicopter, possibly supported by a fixed wing aircraft. The

TMAS must take into account that such evacuations can be carried out only when the ship is within helicopter's flying range from land and only when a suitably equipped helicopter is available. It may be possible under conditions of extreme medical urgency for surface and air assets to be used (ship as a staging landing platform plus helicopter), however the availability of such assets cannot be assumed or guaranteed.

Where the ship's Master requires a MEDEVAC, and need of it is supported by the TMAS, the ship's Master may communicate with the RCC directly or through a Maritime Communications Station without further reference to the TMAS. In this event the Maritime Communications Station or the RCC will ascertain information which may include:

- Patient's name and nationality.
- Patient's condition.
- Master's name and nationality.
- Vessel name, flag and IMO number.
- Ship's position.
- Shipowner/operator and country.
- Nearest port and ETA.

500B. Station List

The list below contains additional information by country on how medical advice is handled, when in doubt, contact a Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) using the instructions listed in section 500A. See Chapter 4 for distress communications.

Country	Name (Location)	Contact	Notes
Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard Deepwater Harbour St. John's (Deepwater Harbour, St.John's, Antigua)	Phone: 268 462 0671, Fax: 268 462 2842	Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard has access to doctors who could relay medical advice through the Coast Guard
		Language: English	
		Associated MRCC/JRCC: MRCC Forte De France	
Argentina	MRSC Río de la Plata	Phone: +5411 4576 7652, Fax: +5411 4576 7651, E-mail: Contrasebaires@prefectura naval.gov.ar	
	MRSC Comodoro Rivadavia	MMSI: 007010008, Phone: +54297-4476800, Fax: +54297-4473863, E-mail: jecriv@prefectura naval.gov	
	MRCC Ushuaia	Phone/Fax: +54-2901-431098, E-mail: mrccushuaia@ara.mil.ar	
Australia	Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) via RCC Australia	MMSI: 005030001, Phone: 612 6230 6811, Fax: 612 6230 6868, E-mail: rccaus@amsa.gov.au	
Belgium	Militair Hospital – Military Hospital, Neder-over-Heembeek (Belgium)	Phone: +2 2644111 (General), +32 2 2644949 (telemedical)	
Brazil	A specific service is not available, but the RCCs are responsible for medical assistance to ships when required		
Bulgaria	A specific service is not available, but MRCC Varna is responsible for medical assistance to ships when required		
Canada	Contact any Canadian Coast Guard CRS or JRCC/MRSC and prefix the message with “Radiomedical” and telemedical advice will be provided		
Cape Verde	MRCC Cape Verde	Phone: +(238)2324492, +(238)2324144, Fax: +(238)2324271, E-mail: capitaniasv@cvtelecom.cv	
Chile	Hospital Naval Almirante NEF-Hospital del Instituto de Seguridad del Trabajo		

5 - 5

STATIONS TRANSMITTING MEDICAL ADVICE

Country	Name (Location)	Contact	Notes
Colombia	MRCC Copa	Call Sign: Omitido	
Croatia	Medico Rijeka, contact via MRCC Rijeka or CRSs	MRCC Rijeka-Telex: 599-24634, Inmarsat-C: 423816510, Phone: +385 51 312253, +385 51 9155, Fax: +385 51 312 254, E-mail: mrcc@pomorstvo.hr	
Cyprus	Nicosia General Hospital		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Pyongyang Friendship Medical Centre		
Denmark including Greenland	Radio MEDICAL to RCC	see Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 400F	
Ecuador	Guayaquil Naval Hospital		
Egypt	JRCC Cairo	Inmarsat-C: 462299910 RCCE (AOR-E), Telex: +9121095 RCCCRUN, Phone: +20224184537, Fax: +20224184531,+20224184537, E-mail: jrcc136@afmic.gov.eg , Website: http://www.saregypt.net.eg	
Estonia	North Estonian Emergency Centre		
Faroes	Hospital in Torshavn (no specific Maritime Radio Medical arrangement)		
Finland	TMAS contacts via MRCC Turku or MRSC Helsinki	Possible consultation languages: English, Finnish and Swedish	The social and health authorities provide advice
France	French TMAS: CCMM Toulouse		
Georgia	MRCC Georgia	MMSI: 002130100, Phone: +995 222 73913, Fax: +995 222 73905, E-mail: mrcc@maradageorgia.org	
Germany	Stadtkrankenhaus Cuxhaven		
Greece	Medical Advice Centre of the Hellenic Red Cross, based at HENRU DUNANT General Hospital (Mesogion Av. 107, Athens, Greece)	Phone: 30 210 52 30 880, +30 210 52 37 515, Fax: +30 210 52 28 888	A Link-call (HF, MF, VHF or mobile telephone) can also be established between JRCC Piraeus or Olympia Radio, medical advisor and the ship

Country	Name (Location)	Contact	Notes
Hong Kong, China	Port Health Office through MRCC Hong Kong	Call sign: VRC (Hong Kong Marine Rescue), Telex: 82952 MRCC HX, Phone: +852 2233 7999, Fax: +852 2541 7714, E-mail: khmrc@mardep.gov.hk	
Iceland	Icelandic Coast Guard SAR helicopter doctors	Iceland Coast Guard. Inmarsat-C: 581 425101519, 581 492740310, Phone: +354 5113333 (emergency), +354 5452100, Fax: +354 5452001, +354 562 9043, E-mail: sar@icg.is , reyrad@icg.is , vms@icg.is , Website: http://www.icg.is	24 hrs
India	No arrangement of telemedical advice available. Medical advice on RT / Inmarsat through service doctors at MRCC/MRSC available	see Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 400F	OPV (Offshore Patrol Vessel) class of vessel having medical officers services available on board
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Call MRCC and request telemedical advice	see Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 400F	A link-call (VHF or mobile telephone) will be established between MRCC, medical advisor and the ship
Ireland	MEDICO Cork		
Italy	CIRM		
Jamaica	Upon request through the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard		
Japan	SEMPOS. Medical Rescue can be arranged by Japanese RCCs	see Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 400F	
Latvia	Medical Center of Emergency and Disaster		
Lithuania	Maritime Medical Subdivision of Klaipėda Hospital		
Malta	Available through the Ports Medical Officer		
Mauritius	Mauritius Radio Services (MRS)		

Country	Name (Location)	Contact	Notes
Mexico	Tuxpan Mexican Navy Hospital	Phone: (00 52) 783 8 34 41 43, (00 52) 783 8 35 37 34	Contact any Mexican MRCC
	Ensenada Mexican Navy Hospital	Phone: (00 52) 646 1 77 39 49, (00 52) 646 1 77 38 33, (00 52) 646 1 77 38 30	Contact any Mexican MRCC
	Mexican Navy Hospital	Phone: (00 52) 938 3 82 29 41, (00 52) 938 3 82 57 07	Contact any Mexican MRCC
	Guaymas Mexican Navy Hospital	Phone: (00 52) 622 2 21 64 67, (00 52) 622 2 21 64 57	Contact any Mexican MRCC
	Mujeres Mexican Navy Hospital	Phone: (00 52) 998 8 77 00 01	Contact any Mexican MRCC
	Manzanillo Mexican Navy Hospital	Phone: (00 52) 314 3 33 66 41, 314 3 33 27 40	Contact any Mexican MRCC
	Acapulco Mexican Navy Hospital	Phone: (00 52) 744 484 70 53, (00 52) 744 484 58 46	Contact any Mexican MRCC
Montenegro	No formal arrangements but available upon request through MRCC	Inmarsat-C: 426200016, Telex: +200 61445, Phone: +00382 30 313 088, Fax: +00382 30 313 600, E-mail: barradio@msd-ups.org , Website: http://www.pomorstvo.me	
Morocco	A specific service is not yet available. Contact the MRCC and prefix the message with "Radiomedico" and telemedical advice will be provided		
Namibia	Local Standby Medical Doctor		
Netherlands	Radio Medical Service		
Curacao (Netherlands Antilles)	RCC Curaçao	Call Sign: PJC, Telex: (0390) 1506, Phone: +599 9 463 7700, Fax: +599 9 463 7950, E-mail: rcc.curacao@gmail.com , rcc.curacao@mindef.nl	Local arrangements with medical volunteers
New Zealand	RCC New Zealand	Phone: +644 577 8030 (24-7), +644 577 8034 (Admin), Fax: +644 577 8038 (24-7), +644 577 8041 (Admin), E-mail: rccnz@maritimenz.govt.nz	

Country	Name (Location)	Contact	Notes
Norway	National center for maritime radio medico		
Philippines	Coast Guard Medical Service		
Poland	Academical Centre for Maritime and Tropical Medicine in Gdynia		
Portugal	Medical advice is provided by Centro de Orientação de Doentes Urgente (CODU)-MAR		
Republic of Korea	Incheon Gil hospital		
Romania	Universitary Hospital of Constanta		
Russian Federation	Northern Medical Clinical Center	Language: Russian (only)	
	Sakhalin Territorial Centre of the Medicine and Catastrophe		
	Regional center medicine of accident		
Saudi Arabia	MRCC Jeddah: King Fahad General Hospital		
	MRCC Dammam: Dammam Medical Centre		
Singapore	Singapore General Hospital		
Spain	Centro Radio Médico Madrid		
Sweden	Telemedical Assistance Service (TMAS) is coordinated by JRCC Sweden according to agreement with Sahlgrenska University Hospital Gothenburg	Telex: 326590013, 426590010, Phone: 031-64 80 00, 326590010, Fax: 326590011, E-mail: jrcc@sjofartsverket.se	
Turkey	Ministry of Health General Directorate of Health for Border and Coastal Areas		
	Turkish Tele Health Center	Phone: +90 212 444 83 53	

Country	Name (Location)	Contact	Notes
United Kingdom	Call Aberdeen Coastguard, Brixham Coastguard, Clyde Coastguard, Dover Coastguard, Falmouth Coastguard, Forth Coastguard, Holyhead Coastguard, Humber Coastguard, Liverpool Coastguard, London Coastguard, MRCC Milford Haven, Portland Coastguard, Shetland Coastguard, Solent Coastguard, Stornoway Coastguard, Swansea Coastguard, Thames Coastguard, Yarmouth Coastguard, or general call-sign "UK Coastguard" and request medical advice. A Link-call (MF, VHF or mobile telephone) will be established between MRCC, medical advisor and ship	see Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 400F	
United Kingdom (Bermuda)	King Edward VII Memorial Hospital		
	USCG—Obtained through Sector San Juan Medical Officer		on 24hour duty
United Kingdom (Falkland Islands (Malvinas))	King Edward Memorial Hospital		
United Kingdom (Isle of Man)	HM Coastguard		
United Kingdom (Jersey)	Jersey General Hospital		
United Kingdom (Montserrat)	Glendon Hospital	Phone: 664 4912552	
United Republic of Tanzania	Arrangements are underway to designate a TMAS		
United States	Contact any U.S. JRCC or JRSC	see Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 400F	
Uruguay	MRCC Uruguay	Telex: 22557 ARMADA UY, Fax: (5982) 916 13 89, (5982) 916 79 22, E-mail: comflo_radio@armada.gub.uy , jesar@armada.gub.uy	
Vietnam	Vietnam National Institute of Maritime Medicine through VMRCC	see Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 400F	on 24hour duty