WHAT DO YOU NEED IN YOUR MEDICAL KIT SYSTEM?

QUESTIONS MEDICAL KIT PROVIDERS SHOULD ASK YOU!

1. Do you charter?
2. Do you frequently cruise with children or elderly?
3. What are your upcoming itineraries?
4. Do you have a shipping & delivery schedule? *
5. What is the distance to care/ time to evacuation?
6. What are the activities of crew and guests?

**This is extremely important as many medications need special storage and/ or refrigeration. Ensure the provider will be able to provide medication chain of command documentation.*

THE DECISIONS THAT GO INTO MEDAIRE MEDICAL KIT SYSTEMS

- Current evidence, new medications and best practices
- Practical application of the item in real-world use based on remote expertise
- Considerations of drug interactions
- The value of the item and the clinical benefit it delivers
- Item size and average expiration date comparisons of like products
- International supply and support capability
- Compliance of products against statutory regulations and legislative recommendations
- Simplicity of use on the item

IN THE KNOW

THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED BY MEDAIRE AS THE MOST COMMON EVENTS WHERE THEY RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE – BOTH AT SEA AND AT SHORE. **HOW DOES THIS COMPARE TO YOUR VESSEL AND EXPERIENCE?**

TOP 10 CALLS AT SEA

23%	Ear, Nose & Throat
16%	Gastrointestinal
11%	Trauma
10%	Dermatology/Integumentary
10%	Allergy/Immunology
8%	Respiratory
6%	Dental
6%	Neurological/Neurosurgical
5%	Communicable/Infectious Disease
5%	Orthopedic/ Musculoskeletal

TOP 10 CALLS SHORE-SIDE

22%	Ear, Nose & Throat
16%	Trauma
13%	Dermatology/Integumentary
10%	Gastrointestinal
9%	Respiratory
9%	Communicable/Infectious Disease
6%	Orthopedic/ Musculoskeletal
6%	Ophthalmological
6%	Pharmacological Information
4%	Obstetrics and gynecology

65% OF REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OCCURRED WHILE THE VESSEL WAS NOT CRUISING.

*SOURCE MEDAIRE'S MEDLINK DATA 2013

QUESTIONS TO ASK MEDICAL KIT PROVIDERS

- Y N Does the medical kit provider have an integrated solution with a remote medical service?
- Y N Do the doctors have visibility by item level of the contents available in your medical kits?
- Y N Are the medical kit contents sufficient for my needs?
- Y N Is detailed medical reference information included with the kit system?
- Y N Is it easy to maintain and refurbish the medical kit system?
- Y N Does the vendor provide software to manage cases and record patient notes?
- Y N Can the vendor assist you with resupplies on a global level?
- Y N Do you need to manually check expiration dates of items in the kit?

RED-FLAG QUESTIONS

IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE A SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, STRONGLY CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS.

Are you licensed?

This will tell you whether a supplier can deliver a safe solution. Purchase of medicines and medical devices of any kind through unregulated and unlicensed vendors should be avoided at all cost. Do not make assumptions.

How do you communicate product recalls?

How does the kit vendor communicate if there is a product recall on one of the items in the medical kit? Can they tell you exactly how they track the items they have provided to you?

Does the kit include medicines that require refrigeration?

Very few Yachts have the capability (or process in place) to safely stow and maintain medicines requiring refrigeration. If you have concerns, ask the medical kit vendor if they can recommend an alternative medication that does not require refrigeration.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL LEADS TO SMARTER KIT SYSTEMS

CONSIDER THE BACKPACK WEIGHT

There are many backpack-style medical kits on the market. This is a helpful feature; however know the max safe weight your crew can carry. A general rule is that a person shouldn't carry more than 15 percent of their body weight.

SAVE SPACE

Vacuum pack the medical kit contents at the item level. This method saves space, provides item-level protection from the elements, and simplifies maintenance.

PACK BY USE

Also known as procedure-based packing, this method ensures the items needed to deliver care are logically packed together for ease, speed and accuracy. For example, pack the right size syringe and needle with all the injectable medicines.

In times of emergency, you want to hard wire out any potential risks.

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