



HEALYINST 6100.14
9 Jun 2009

USCGC HEALY INSTRUCTION 6100.1

Subj: MEDICAL SCREENING FOR EMBARKING CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Ref: (a) Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1 (series)
(b) Personnel Manual, COMDTINST M1000.6 (series)

1. PURPOSE. This instruction is to provide guidance regarding medical screening of civilians deploying on CGC HEALY. This applies to civilian scientists, dependents, contractors, and other riders.
2. ACTION. CGC HEALY's Executive Officer, medical and administrative personnel shall oversee and ensure compliance with this instruction. Any HEALY member intending to have a dependent embark onboard HEALY shall comply with the guidance herein. CGC HEALY's collaterally assigned berthing officer is an integration point for personnel involved in science mission-related deployment.
3. BACKGROUND. Per 2.F.6 of reference (a), emergency medical care may be provided to civilians aboard Coast Guard vessels, but routine care may not. HEALY deploys to some of the most austere and remote locales on the globe, including the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. If a crewmember were to become ill or injured and require MEDEVAC, it would take three to four days or more to get the ship into helicopter range, followed by at least another day to reach advanced medical care in Anchorage or Seattle. Though HEALY is staffed with a Physician Assistant and a Senior Chief Health Services Technician, and has the best equipped sickbay in the Coast Guard, medical services are still limited when compared to those found ashore, thus, all personnel must be in good physical condition to deploy.
4. DISCUSSION. The decision whether a member is fit to deploy rests with HEALY's Medical Officer and Executive Officer. The determination is based on the responses to the HEALY Scientific Mission Personnel Data Sheet – Medical History Form, which is to be submitted prior to deployment. In general, personnel sailing aboard HEALY must be healthy and free from needing foreseeable medical treatment during the deployment. Specific concerns may require further consultation or testing at the member's expense.
5. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.
6. PROCEDURE. The following are guidelines regarding health issues:
 - a. Chronic disease. Chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, autoimmune disease, epilepsy, etc. should be stable without recent changes in medication. Embarking civilian personnel are obligated to deploy with an adequate supply of medicine for the trip, plus 14 days extra in case the deployment is extended.

9 Jun 2009

b. Acute injuries. Injuries which require casting are disqualifying for deployment, as are those that significantly restrict movement in the upper or lower extremity, or spine. Those that require supervised physical or occupational therapy are also disqualifying, although injuries which require only self-provided therapy are not.

c. Acute infections. Active infections (e.g. cellulitis, pneumonia, UTI) are not disqualifying so long as the patient has been on appropriate antibiotic therapy for at least 48 hours, is improving, and does not require follow-up laboratory or radiological testing. Active communicable disease infections are generally disqualifying for deployment, due to the close living quarters aboard ship.

d. Allergies. Personnel with medically managed allergies may deploy. Recent (past 30 days) or undiagnosed severe anaphylactic reactions may be disqualifying.

e. Immunizations. HEALY does not routinely deploy to areas that require specific immunizations, but annual influenza immunization is recommended, as is an up to date TDaP.

f. Pregnancy. Restrictions regarding pregnant civilians deploying with HEALY mirrors policy set forth in 9.A of reference (b). Specifically, pregnant women will not be allowed to deploy on HEALY. If during a deployment a woman is found to be pregnant, she may remain onboard, with appropriate restrictions to protect her health and that of the fetus, until she can be safely transported home. Any obstetric emergency would require an immediate MEDEVAC.

g. Dental health. Dental disease can quickly degrade into an emergency, but is often overlooked when screening prior to deployment. All members shall have a thorough dental examination within one year of deployment, and be free of active disease.

h. Post-surgical/procedural period. Member must have completed all post-surgical examinations and be free of complications prior to deployment. The requirement for routine follow-up care with the surgeon to evaluate the efficacy of the procedure is not considered disqualifying.

i. Mental health. History of psychosis is disqualifying from deployment, even if currently stable with or without medication. Anti-depressant or anti-anxiety medication use is not disqualifying so long as the type and dosage has been stable for at least 30 days, and the crewmember has been improving.

j. Disabilities. In general, HEALY seeks to accommodate all embarked personnel safely. Each case will be evaluated independently, and personnel with hearing, sight, or mobility impairments should consult the Medical Officer early in the planning process for guidance. In general, personnel must be able to hear alarms, meet the sight requirements for driving, and be able to independently move along the steep ladders found throughout the ship.

k. Other medical conditions. The number of other potentially disqualifying conditions is too broad to completely address in this memorandum. It is the responsibility of the HEALY's Medical Officer, Executive Officer, and the crewmember's personal health care provider to address any and all medical conditions which may endanger the health of the crewmember, and/or place HEALY's mission in jeopardy.

9 Jun 2009

7. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. These were analyzed and determined not applicable.
8. FORMS/REPORTS. The below-listed enclosures are the forms for use in the screening process.


F. J. SOMMER

Enclosure: (1) Coast Guard Overseas Screening form
(2) Scientific Mission Personnel Data Sheet – Medical History form