



HM Coastguard

TELEMEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE

To obtain radio medical advice or assistance in UK waters, Masters and Skippers should first contact HM Coastguard on either VHF DSC, VHF 16, MF DSC or INMARSAT. Urgent calls may be preceded by the urgency signal PAN PAN. Callers will be taken to a duplex VHF channel or simplex MF frequency. Users should avoid using mobile telephones for seeking medical advice or assistance or contacting a hospital direct.

The coastguard will then connect the caller's VHF or MF to telephone landline to make contact with a doctor at one of the designated UK centres for Telemedical Assistance Services. Whilst the link is being established, the following basic information will be requested:

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1 NAME OF VESSEL | 4 NATURE OF SYMPTOMS / INJURY |
| 2 TYPE OF VESSEL | WHETHER CONSCIOUS |
| 3 DETAILS OF PATIENT: | ABLE TO WALK |
| SEX | 5 POSITION OF VESSEL |
| NATIONALITY | (to be given as lat and long for SAR purposes) |
| | 6 ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION |
| | THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE |

The coastguard will monitor the call and on completion the doctor will brief the coastguard as to whether the advice was to treat the patient on board, whether the vessel is to return to port with the patient or whether medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) is recommended. **The coastguard will not initiate a MEDEVAC from a vessel without the approval of a doctor from the MCA's Telemedical Assistance Service.**

Vessels operating outside UK waters are advised to check their Almanacs or ALRS Vol 1 for TELEMEDICAL ADVICE SERVICES (TMAS). Or, if using INMARSAT, simply use two digit short code 32 Medical Advice which most earth stations will connect to a hospital for doctor's advice.