

OOVID-19 MEDEVAC: Overview of Key Lessons/Tips

Summary from Questionnaire & Panel sessions, May 2021

Please note that this document is intended to supplement existing COVID-19 MEDEVAC guidance



- Make sure you have a COVID-19 MEDEVAC SoP in place
- Ensure the SoP reflects the need for any **specific permissions** from Government Ministries / Agencies (e.g. Health, Foreign Affairs, Aviation) and identify and confirm optimum route to obtain these
- Involve others in developing / confirming / updating it to incorporate lessons as needed
- Ensure the RC is aware of and in agreement with the SoP



- Take time to reach out to those who may be involved in a MEDEVAC as a way of making initial contact. A **quick introduction during a calm period** can be a nice way to build a relationship which may need to work under stress (and check contact details are correct)
- Keep **key contact details** easily to hand. Store telephone numbers in your phone under a dedicated group
- Advise the key group if the Covid-19 Coordinator is away (e.g. AL) and clearly identify and provide contact details for alternate Covid-19 Coordinator in advance
- Create **dedicated email groups**, to make information sharing easier
- A dedicated group on a **mobile messaging** platform (e.g. Signal, Telegram, or WhatsApp-although this is less secure) is also a good way to maintain rapid practical communication*
- Have someone available who can **speak the local language** to assist with any outreach that may be necessary to facilitate the MEDEVAC
- details are cor@fa(a)6y)-@te)9(t)-181@FDC q@f8in)/)6si)-@e38e35/P kreW* n.24y.24Ce(y)-



- Consider early whether the **assistance of Security** colleagues will be needed to help facilitate the MEDEVAC, and engage them as needed
- Ensure early engagement of family of patient by Referring Entity. Information should be shared with them, and where available counselling / psycho-social support made available
- Consider using open-source **flight tracking** to help ensure that ground transportation links up well with aircraft arrival (e.g. Flightaware.com). Note that if used, this should complement not replace engagement with Medevac Cell.
- Consider having **umbrellas** available during transportation of patient to departure flight, in case infrastructure limitations create need to shield patient from sun/rain
- Conduct an **inclusive and constructive Lessons Learned** after every MEDEVAC. Capture any key lessons, share them and as needed incorporate them in your SoP.

^{*}We encourage you to be pragmatic, however would remind you that mobile messaging apps should be used in accordance with the rules and regulations of your organisation, and should reflect any context-specific security considerations



- C Don't hesitate to alert the MCU at an early stage
- If you have any doubts about the process reach out and **ask the MCU**. Better to ask early and get it right than guess and cause a potential delay to the MEDEVAC.
- Get **patient measurements** early in the process (height, weight, shoulder to shoulder, hip to hip, elbow to elbow)
- Patients should be encouraged to **prepare a small go-bag** with personal essentials in advance (e.g. travel docs, medication, hygiene items, mobile phone + charger, clothing)
- Make the WHO epishuttle video available to patient and their family at an early stage
- Ensure the **treating physician is aware in advance of what the MEDEVAC will entail** and what may be required from them to facilitate it. Enable them to **clearly inform patient**