

**NORTH**  
SERVICE, STRENGTH, QUALITY



# POST REPATRIATION MEDICAL PROGRAMME

# POST REPATRIATION MEDICAL PROGRAMME (PRM)

INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY 2013 TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT, HIGH-QUALITY TREATMENT FOR FILIPINO SEAFARERS.

## WHAT IT IS

The Post Repatriation Medical Programme (PRM) was introduced in February 2013, with the aim of providing efficient, high-quality treatment for Filipino seafarers whilst at the same time avoiding excessive costs, in particular by avoiding unnecessary treatment for additional medical conditions for which members were not legally or contractually responsible.



*Presently the programme is reducing treatment times by 15.5%.*

This programme operates most effectively when the Club is notified of the incident before repatriation of a crewmember takes place, preferably on the day of illness or injury, but certainly prior to repatriation. The crewmember can then receive his initial consultation and ongoing treatment at one of the recommended facilities.

If we can identify precise details of the injury or illness for which the crewmember requires repatriation, this will assist in ensuring that they receive appropriate treatment at a specialist facility. It is also intended to prevent claims for treatment for a condition which is pre-existing or is incidental to the reason for repatriation.

**The benefits of the programme are as follows:**



**The timely provision of excellent health care appropriate to the injury or illness**



**Ensuring the necessary treatment is completed as soon as possible**



**The avoidance of inflated and unnecessary medical costs**



**The avoidance of unwarranted treatment**



**Improved prospects of avoiding disputes and arbitration relating to the treatment**

## HOW TO UTILISE THE PROGRAMME

Members are requested to inform their manning agents that the medical treatment will take place under the North Post Repatriation Medical programme and medical arrangements will be driven by the Club. Manning agents will receive updates from the correspondents after each medical review so that they are aware that treatment is ongoing and they should continue with payment of sickness wages.

Members should set up the usual billing arrangements with manning agents to ensure

prompt payment of medical fees.

It is important to identify the relevant contractual terms as soon as possible so that we are aware of Members contractual obligations at the earliest opportunity. Members should notify the Club of the existence of any applicable CBA's in addition to the POEA contract.

## HOW IT WORKS

When the crew member returns to the Philippines he will be referred to one of the Post Repatriation Medical facilities for examination and will be evaluated based on the illness or injury for which he was repatriated. Medical reports will be confined to the diagnosed condition and sent to North, with correspondents in copy, within 24 hours of the initial consultation.

If further tests are required before a work or non-work related pronouncement can be made, the Club can authorise tests on the day of the request in order to avoid delays. Once a plan of treatment has been devised, the clinic will request authority to treat from the Club on behalf of their Members.

North will provide authority on Members behalf in cases where they are contractually obliged to treat to ensure that treatment commences immediately.

Once treatment commences the crew member will receive regular re-evaluation appointments. Written details of the next appointment will be given by the clinic with a reminder that failure to report can result in cessation of support for treatment and other benefits as per the POEA terms.

The Post Repatriation facility will endeavour to provide North and correspondents with a copy of the Specialist's report within 24 hours of the consultation.

Under the PRM programme we have decided to avoid the phrase "fit to work" in favour of "fit for the condition referred as per the POEA contract". The PRM doctors are concerned with treatment not PEME.

A "fit for the condition referred" certificate will be issued as soon as the treatment for the condition for which the seafarer was repatriated is completed. Any incidental findings will be reported separately.

In the case of a lengthy illness or injury, the Post Repatriation facility will report on prognosis if the crew member is still unfit at the 90th day after repatriation.

**The full clinic details are as follows:**

### SHIP TO SHORE MEDICAL ASSIST



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/ Ms Sarah Jane Lu (Post Medical  
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### SHIPHEALTH INC



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*If you require any further information  
in respect of our PRM please contact  
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