

# Post Repatriation Medical Programme (PRM)

## Efficient, high-quality treatment for Filipino seafarers

### What is PRM?

The Post Repatriation Medical Programme (PRM) was introduced in February 2013, with the aim of providing efficient, high quality treatment for Filipino seafarers at secure, good quality facilities in the Philippines, whilst at the same time avoiding excessive costs.

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/her 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. The programme is designed to prevent claims for conditions which may be pre-existing or incidental to the reason for repatriation, for which members were not legally or contractually responsible.

In the Philippines there are also time limits for evaluating ongoing treatment – if the necessary notifications are not made within the specified period it can result in significantly adverse claims costs.

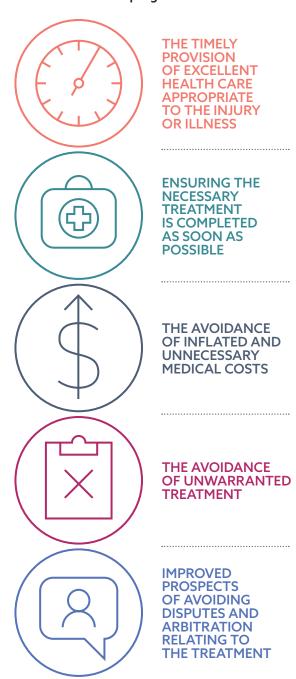
## How to utilise the programme

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 Club or 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 expenses.

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 POFA contract

## The benefits of the programme are as follows:



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#### How it works

When crew are disembarked as a result of an illness or injury and repatriated to the Philippines they 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 they were repatriated. Medical reports will be confined to the diagnosed condition and sent to North, with correspondents in copy, where appropriate, 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 Members are contractually obliged to treat to ensure that treatment commences immediately.

Once treatment commences the crewmember 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 in accordance with the POEA contract.

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 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 pre-employment medical examinations, so they cannot confirm that the crewmember is fit to return to sea, that is for consideration by the pre-employment doctors.

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 crewmember is still unfit at the 90th day after repatriation. This is so we can determine whether the crewmember is likely to be certified fit or whether they are suffering from a disability.

## Clinics

## Ship to Shore Medical Assist

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## Shiphealth Inc

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## NORTH INFO

For more information regarding our PRM programme please contact:

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