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Introduction

In 2002 North launched a pre-employment medical programme in the Philippines.

We were increasingly concerned about the high risk of claims against Members from seafarers with pre-existing medical conditions. Although many of these underlying conditions should have been identified by a pre-employment medical examination, we were consistently finding that the PEME had not been fully effective.

The programme has been operating successfully for many years and now includes four clinics in Manila, two in Cebu and one in Iloilo.

All clinics recommended by North perform the same medical examinations at the same fixed price (see schedules A and B). They work to medical standards set, maintained and audited annually by Dr. Charlie Easmon of Your Excellent Health Service (YEHS), medical consultant to the Club.

Members who employ Filipino officers and crew, are urged to consider (in co-operation with their manning agents) that all seafarers undergo annual enhanced pre-employment medical screening through North's programme or at least to the same standard as that offered by such clinics.

Crew illness claims continue to be expensive. One single serious illness can require the vessel to deviate and incur all the attendant commercial consequences. Further, the resultant hospitalisation, repatriation, continued medical treatment and other related expenses may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. There is also a serious safety risk should a seafarer with an undetected medical condition be, for example, in charge of the ship or its machinery. Most importantly however, a crewmember may be taken seriously ill when the vessel is days from port, and whilst every effort is always made to ensure prompt treatment, this is a risk that should be avoided as much as is practicable.

NORTH INFO

For more information please contact: **Lucy Dixon**, **Abbie Rudd** or **Alex Farrier**, via our dedicated email address **PEME@nepia.com**

Clinics - Selection

The clinics recommended by the Club comply with and maintain the following minimum standards and specific requirements:

- The provision of two recommended medical examinations

 Schedule A for ages 40 years and below.
 - b. Schedule B for ages 41 years and over.
- Recommended medical examinations at a fixed cost.
- All tests are to be carried out objectively and without influence from seafarer or any third party.
- Any recommended clinic will be audited annually by YEHS
 to ensure they meet the required standard. YEHS will
 confirm the accuracy, thoroughness, and objectivity of
 the test procedures. Clinics must complete this audit
 successfully to remain a recommended clinic.
- Any recommended clinic may also be audited at any time by the Club to ensure they meet the required standard. These annual audits will confirm the accuracy, thoroughness, and objectivity of the test procedure. Clinics must complete this audit successfully to remain a recommended clinic.
- Test records are to be maintained by the clinic for five years from the date of the test. The clinics are to produce monthly statistics to be provided to the Club and, if requested, to YEHS, in order to review the efficiency of the recommended programme.
- Some concessions may be given for senior crew and re-hired crew. See page 9.
- The clinic must at all times be fully accredited according to local regulations.
- The list of recommended clinics will be reviewed after each audit, or following any other event considered relevant.
 The Club reserves the right to increase, reduce or withdraw this list of recommended clinics at any time without prior notice.

Members should be aware that rejection rates might be higher than experienced previously as the programme is designed to effectively screen out seafarers who, if employed on Members' ships, could be a danger to themselves, to other crew members, to the ship on which they sail, or to the person or property of third parties. Experience shows that rejection rates settle at about 3 - 4% once manning agents appreciate the enhanced standards to which the clinics are working and become more selective in the candidates they submit for screening.

North Recommended Clinics

Clinic	Address	Contact	
Manila		•	
S M Lazo Medical Clinic Inc	1755 Taft Avenue Cor J Nakpil Street Malate Manila Philippines	Director: Tel: Fax: Email:	Mrs Aurora Lazo +632 3037005/5219011 +632 5246325 smlazo@i-manila.com.ph
Halcyon Health Network	Ma. Cornelia Building 222 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City, 1230 Metro Manila Philippines	Director: Mob: Tel/Fax: Email:	Dr Glennda Canlas +632 8640206/13 +632 8640214 csr1@halcyonmarinehealth.com glennda@pacific.net.ph
Maritime Medical & Laboratory Clinic	2nd Floor Paragon Tower Hotel 531 A. Flores St. Ermita Manila Philippines	Director: Tel: Fax: Email:	Dr Joselito De Guzman +632 5263809/12/15 +632 5263816 peme@mmlci.com.ph marmedlabclinic@yahoo.com
SuperCare Medical Services Inc	Patria Building 573 Maria Orosa Corner Engracia Reyes Streets Ermita, Manila 1080 Philippines	Director: Tel: Mob: Email:	Dr Pascualito D. Gutay +63 2 5210024 (direct line) +63 2 5210024 - 35 +63 928 501 8078 paskygutay@supercare.com.ph peme.support@supercare.com.ph
Cebu			
Physicians Diagnostic Centre Inc	108 F Ramos Street Corner of Jungquera St. Cebu City Philippines	Director: Tel: Fax: Email:	Dr. Ma Stella Polentinos +63 32 2541778 +63 32 2543797 cebu@pdsclinics.com CC: pemeinquiry-pdscebu@ pdsclinics.com
SuperCare Medical Services, Inc.	Vicente Bldg M. Velez St. Cebu City Philippines	Contact: Tel: Fax: Email:	Dr Pascual Gutay +63 32 5116167 +63 32 2388581 paskygutay@supercare.com.ph
lloilo			
SuperCare Medical Services	3rd Floor 22 Manfred's Place General Luna Street Iloilo City, 5000 Philippines	Director: Tel: Email:	Dr Pascualito Gutay +63 33 335 30 96/97 paskygutay@supercare.com.ph joan.rafolsmd@supercare.com.ph
Local liaison doctor for all recomm	mended clinics		
Doctor Glennda Canlas	c/o Halcyon Health Network	Tel: Tel/Fax: Email:	+632 8640206/13 +632 8640214 csr1@halcyonmarinehealth.com

Neither the Club nor YEHS has any contractual or other legal relationship with the clinics. Any claim for fees in accordance with the agreed charges is to be invoiced by the clinics to the manning agent and paid in the usual manner. Any other charges for additional tests outside the scope of those set out in schedules A and B are to be paid in accordance with arrangements negotiated locally.

Members are advised to give the manning agents details of tests for each age group (those set out in Schedules A and B) to present to the candidate prior to arrival at the clinic to ensure awareness of the nature and extent of the testing.

Members are advised to consider an additional abdominal ultrasound test as we are advised of an increase in the number of renal and gall stone cases and have agreed to make these tests available at a cost negotiated locally.

Medical Examinations

Schedule A Filipino Nationals

Less than 40 years old

A. Pre-employment medical examination

- 1. Review of past medical history with appropriate declaration discussed with doctor, agreed and signed by candidate.
- 2. Digital Chest X-ray
- 3. Complete Blood Count
- 4. Routine Urinalysis (10 parameters)
- 5. FECT (for food handlers)
- 6. Blood Typing (A,B,O and Rh factor)
- 7. Dental Check-up
- 8. Optical Check-up
- 9. Complete P.E. & History

B. Additional Examination

10. Lipid Profile

Total Cholesterol (HDL/LDL)

Triglycerides

11. Liver Profile

SGPT

12. Kidney Function

Creatinine

13. Others:

Hba1C

HIV 1 & 2

Audiometry

Ishihara

Pulmonary Function Test

VDRL Screening

ECG

BUA (Blood Uric Acid)

14. Hepatitis:

Hepa B Antigen Test

Cost

Examination Cost: \$85

If additional tests are carried out there may be additional charges.

Schedule B Filipino Nationals

For 41 years old and above

A. Pre-employment medical examination

- Review of past medical history with appropriate declaration discussed with doctor, agreed and signed by candidate.
- 2. Digital Chest X-ray
- 3. Complete Blood Count
- 4. Routine Urinalysis (10 parameters)
- 5. FECT (for food handlers)
- 6. Blood Typing (A,B,O and Rh Factor)
- 7. Dental Check-up
- 8. Optical Check-up
- 9. Complete P.E. & History

B. Additional Examination

10. Lipid Profile

Total Cholesterol (HDL/LDL)

Triglycerides

11. Liver Profile

SGPT

12. Kidney Function Test

Creatinine

13. Others:

Hba1C

HIV 1 & 2

Audiometry

Ishihara

Pulmonary Function Test

VDRL Screening

ECG

BUA (Blood Uric Acid)

14. Hepatitis:

Hepa B Antigen Test

C. Stress test & Cardio Profile

Cost

Examination Cost: \$120

If additional tests are carried out there may be additional charges.

Medical Examination Record

-rage 101	<u></u>	ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH
		HERE
Numbers in brackets (2) refer to EXPLAI	NATORY NOTES	
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL	
SEX	AGE DATE OF BIRTH	
CIVIL STATUS PASSPOR	RT NO. JOB APPLIED FOR MANNIN	G AGENT
PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS		
TEL NO.		
HEIGHT (2) m ins	WEIGHT (3) lbs kgs PULSE /min	reg irr
BODY BUILD (4) SS M	S LS OW	
CHEST: INSP (5) ins	Chest: Exp ins ABD GIRTH (6)	ns
VISUAL ACUITY FAR VISION	NEAR VISION COLOUR VISION (7)	CLARITY OF SPEECH
UNCORRECTED L R	L R	
CORRECTED L R	L	
DENTAL	CHEST X-RAY PA AP	X Ray No.
UPPER 87654321	-L12345678 NEGATIVE BLOOD TYPE:	
LOWER 87654321	-L12345678 POSITIVE BLOOD PRESSI	URE: /
FANALLY LUCTORY	(14) (20) (21)	
FAMILY HISTORY Present Age	Present state of health Age at death Cause of d	eath
Father Mother		
Brother/s 1		
2		
3		
Sister/s 1		
2		
3		
1. Asthma or wheezing 2. Bronchitis 3. Pleurisy 4. Tuberculosis 5. Pneumonia 6. Coughed up blood 7. Shortness of breath 8. Other chest complaints 9. Sinus trouble 10. Frequent colds 11. Ear infections YES NO N	ruffered from, or been told they have (or had) any of the following co 12. Nose bleeding YES NO 22. Swelling of feet 13. Hearing problems YES NO 23. Fainting attacks 14. Rheumatic fever YES NO 24. Migraine 15. High blood pressure YES NO 25. Blackouts 16. Heart attack YES NO 26. Fits 17. Chest pain YES NO 27. Epilepsy 18. Palpitations YES NO 28. Muscular weakness 19. Poor circulation YES NO 29. Paralysis 20. Other infections of the YES NO 30. Stroke heart or circulatory system 31. T.I.A. 21. Varicose veins YES NO 32. Tingling of urnish such information the company may need pertaining to my health standard and all legal responsibility by doing so. I also certify that my medical signalify me from my employment, benefits and claims.	YES
Signature Examiner	Candidate Name of employer	

Medical Examination Record -Page 2 of 2

LAST NAME			FIRST NAM	E		1	MIDDLE INITIAL
SYSTEMIC EXA	AMINATION (9)						
1. Skin 2. Head, neck, sc 3. Eyes - external 4. Pupils, opthalr 5. Ears 6. Nose - sinuses 7. Mouth - throat 8. Neck, L. N. thy 9. Chest - breast 10. Lungs	YES alp YES YES THE STATE THE STAT	RMAL NO		11. Heart 12. Abdomen 13. Back 14. Anus - rectum 15. G - U system 16. Inguinals, geni 17. Reflexes 18. Extremities 19. Dental (teeth) 20. Surgical Opera	YES	RMAL NO	FINDINGS
AUDIOGRAM		500	1000	2000	4000	6000	8000
Right Ear	Khz JB						
Left Ear	Khz JB						
EUNG FUNCT FEV 1 FEV 2 PEFR	ION TESTS						
STANDARD EX 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Chest X-Ray (14x1 Complete Blood of Routine Urinalysis Routine Fecalysis Blood Typing Dental Check-up Optical Check-up	ount (13)					
10 (Psychological Exa EXAMINATION Lipid Profile Triglycerides (19) Cholesterol (16) HDL (17) LDL (18)	mination		13	Others Fasting Blood Sug HIV 1 & HIV 2 Audiometry Ishihara		
11 (Liver Profile Total Bilirubin SGOT SGPT			14	Pulmonary Functi VDRL Screening ECG Hepa A Hepa B Antigen To		
12	Kidney Function Test BUN Creatinine Total Protein			15	Hepa C Stress Test (if app Cardio Profile (if a		

It is recommended that the seafarer is given anti-malarial injections and instructions for the taking of appropriate medication throughout the term of the contract.

Explanatory Notes - Page 1 of 2

- 1. Each Laboratory has its own normal parameters for each investigation that should be observed when completing the form. Any result outside normal parameters should be considered abnormal and the candidate reported as unfit. The same principle should apply to all investigations conducted using the clinics instruments/equipment. Documented assessment of all instruments/equipment used by a clinic performing pre-employment medicals should be undertaken regularly as required by manufactures and at least annually.
- 2. **Height:** If possible record this in metres to two decimal places.
- 3. Weight: If possible record this in kilograms to two decimal places.

The height and weight provide a Body Mass Index (BMI) as follows:

$$BMI = \frac{\text{Weight (kgs)}}{\text{Height (m}^2)}$$

Obese Class II BMI > 30
Obese Class I BMI 25 - 29.9
Overweight BMI 23 - 24.9
Healthy BMI 18.5 - 22.9
Underweight BMI < 18.5

- 4. Body Build: Please record whether short stature (SS), medium stature (MS), large stature (LS) and also state if overweight.
- 5. **Chest Inspiration:** Measure with tape measure the girth of the chest at the level of the nipples for maximum inspiration, and at full expiration, in inches.
- 6. Abdominal Girth: This should be measured at the level of the umbilicus, in inches.
- 7. **Colour Vision:** This should be done using the Ishihara tests for colour deficiency with particular reference to red and green deficiency.
- 8. Medical History: Explain the medical terminology to the candidate to ensure a true medical history.
- 9. **Systemic Examination:** List all surgical operations and any medical admissions to hospital with dates and results of any investigations.
- 10. Chest X-ray: Please confirm whether the view taken is anterior/posterior or posterior/anterior.
- 11. **Random Urine samples:** Two separate urine samples for testing the presence of glucose, the first taken at the start of the examination and the other at the end of the examination.
- 12. Smoking: Indicate the number of cigarettes smoked per day, or the amount of tobacco smoked per week.
- 13. Haematology Blood tests: If possible, obtain a platelet count.
- 14. Blood Pressure: No higher than 140/90.
- 15. **Medication:** All prescribed medication should be recorded.

Explanatory Notes - Page 2 of 2

Note: The optimum levels are shown in **bold** below. Values above or below optimum levels – and all haematology, biochemistry and serology results that are not within normal parameters - must be investigated before be declared fit for work.

Heart Disease and Stroke Risk

16. Total Cholesterol (m	ng/dL) <	<160	Desirable
	1	160 – 199	Desirable
	2	200 – 239	Borderline high
	2	240 – 279	High
	>	>280	High
17. HDL Cholesterol (m	g/dL) >	> 60	
	5	50 – 59	
	4	40 – 49	
	<	< 40	
18. LDL (mg/dL)	<	<100	Optimal
	1	100 – 129	Near optimal/above optimal
	1	130 – 159	Borderline high
	1	160 – 189	High
	>	>190	Very high
19. Triglycerides	<	<150	Optimal
	1	150 – 199	High
	>	>200	Very high
20. Systolic blood press	ure (mm/Hg) <	<120	Normal
	1	120 – 129	Normal
	1	130 – 139	Normal
	1	140 – 159	High
	>	> 160	Referral required
21. Diastolic blood pres	sure (mm/Hg) N	No greate	er that 90 mm/Hg
22. Medication	F	Has any H	Hypotensive medication been taken in the last 48 hours?
23. Risk factors	LDL		Risk of Heart Attack in next 10 years
	190 or > and (0 or 1	Risk Factor: Low

Diabetes

24. Diabetes

Any candidate with glycosuria should be investigated with a glucose tolerance test to assess accurately their diabetic status. If found to be diabetic the type of diabetes must be identified - if the candidate were employed at sea the correct medication to control the diabetes may not be readily available on board ship or ashore.

Risk Factors:

Risk Factors:

10%

10% to 20%

Insulin dependent diabetes is much more difficult to control on board ship with varying working conditions and – in particular – the heat. For safety reasons – candidates with insulin dependent diabetes should not be employed at sea.

160 or > and 2 or more

130 or > and 2 or more

Concessions for Senior Crew and Re-Hired Crew

All new candidates for employment are to be screened strictly in accordance with the recommended pre-employment medical examinations (Schedule A and B) - given that the purpose of the programme is to ensure that seafarers with any significant pre-existing medical problems are not employed thereby avoiding serious risk of deterioration of their health at sea

For candidates returning to employment (re-hired crew) and for senior crew, certain concessions for hypertension and diabetes will be allowed as detailed below.

In the case of insulin dependent diabetes:

• Candidates will still be rejected. It would not be prudent to employ a seafarer with this type of diabetes as there is a high risk of medical complications.

In the case of hypertension:

 Candidates where hypertension can be controlled by medication to a level considered acceptable - a fit to work certificate can be issued.

All candidates with hypertension that can be controlled by medication to a level considered acceptable will be required to sign a declaration making them aware of the responsibility for self-medication and for ensuring the required medication is available throughout the contract of employment. The clinic, the manning agent, the Club, and the Member employing the seafarer will hold copies of this declaration. It would be prudent for the Master of the ship on which the seafarer is to be employed to receive a copy of the declaration so that he is aware of the situation.

Note: this declaration is unlikely to provide protection in the event of the seafarer taking ill with an associated medical problem.

• Where the hypertension is serious and cannot be controlled to a level considered acceptable - candidates will be rejected. It would not be prudent to employ a seafarer under these circumstances as there is a high risk of a serious stroke or development of a heart related condition.

Note: These concessions acknowledge that loyal officers and crew may be in short supply but it should be appreciated that relaxing some of the criteria increases the potential for medical repatriation cases that the programme was designed to avoid.

Concessions - Hypertension

All crew - new to Member - with hypertension are considered unfit.

Re-hired crew with both hypertension and diabetes mellitus are considered unfit.

Re-hired crew with hypertension maybe considered on the following conditions:

- Hypertension is controlled with medication prior to embarkation.
- The ECG must be normal any findings must be cleared by a cardiologist.
- Additional cardiac diagnostic examinations, if any:

2D Echo.

Stress Test.

Other risk factors such as:

BMI - if obese II - to reduce weight.

Cholesterol and LDL if severely elevated - prescribe medications to lower them.

 A concession declaration will be signed by the seafarer acknowledging responsibility for self-medication and for ensuring the required medication is available throughout the contract of employment.

Concessions for Senior Crew and Re-Hired Crew Diabetes Mellitus Type II

All new crew to the Member with hypertension or type II DM are considered unfit.

Re-hired crew with both hypertension and diabetes mellitus are considered unfit.

Re-hired crew with diabetes maybe considered on the following conditions:

- Candidates who are known diabetic and despite medication - have FBS levels that are severely elevated and uncontrolled should be referred to an endocrinologist for assessment of possible complications.
- Candidates with FBS levels mildly elevated (more than 7 m.mol or 122% mg) should undertake OGTT (Oral Glucose Tolerance Test).
- If OGTT abnormal:

New candidates - unfit.

Re-hired crew - refer to endocrinologist. If FBS can be controlled and cleared by the endocrinologist a declaration will be signed by the seafarer acknowledging responsibility for self-medication and for ensuring the required medication is available throughout the contract of employment.

Concession Declaration

I(name)	of(address)	
understand that I have been issued with a fit t	o work certificate so that I may take up employment with	
(name of employer)		on
the understanding that I will be responsible fo	or taking prescribed medication for the condition of	
(Name of Clinic)		
have carefully explained my condition, and the	e instructions for the required medication and how this should be administ	ered.
I hereby agree to follow these instructions and	d take responsibility for ensuring the required medication is available during	g my
contract of employment with (name of emplo	oyer)	
Should any complications arise because of my held responsible.	y failure to provide and administer the required medication, my employers	will not be
I confirm that I understand all the implications	of non-compliance with this undertaking that have been fully explained to	me.
Signed:	Dated: Witnessed:	

Disclaimer

The purpose of this publication is to provide a source of information that is additional to that available to the maritime industry from regulatory, advisory and consultative organisations. Whilst care is taken to ensure the accuracy of any information made available, no warranty of accuracy is given and users of that information are to be responsible for satisfying themselves that it is relevant and suitable for the purposes to which it is applied. In no circumstances whatsoever shall The North of England Protecting and Indemnity Association Limited ("North") be liable to any person whatsoever for any loss or damage, whensoever or howsoever caused, arising out of or in connection with the supply (including negligent supply) or use of information.

Unless the contrary is indicated, all content is written with reference to English Law. The content of this publication does not constitute legal advice and should not be construed as such. Members should contact North for specific advice on particular matters.

North's Pre-Employment Medical programme has been developed in cooperation with UK medical advisors for the benefit of Members who wish to give more guidance to their manning agents in connection with pre-employment medical examinations.

The Pre-Employment Medical programme is intended to assist Members by providing guidelines and recommended medical examinations to their manning agent for reducing the likelihood of seafarers being repatriated before the end of their contractual term. The contractual relationship of the enhanced medicals operates solely and exclusively between a Member's chosen manning agent and one of the selected clinics.

The Pre-Employment Medical programme is not to be considered as medical advice. All decisions as to the sufficiency of the examination, testing, and employment of prospective seamen remain the decisions of the Member and/or its manning agent, and/or the medical clinics. North and YEHS do not undertake or accept any responsibility for such decisions.

This disclaimer is governed by English law and is intended to protect both North and YEHS. In availing itself of this Pre-Employment Medical programmes and guidelines the Member accepts the terms set out above on behalf of itself and its manning agents, servant, agents and employees.

Published November 2022.

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