CCA CRUISE GUIDE

MEDICAL ADDENDUM

As Cruise Organizers you should become knowledgeable of the facilities, personnel, and transportation possibilities for any medical issue or emergency that might occur. This would include: the location of hospitals and clinics that would be used near your venues, the possible levels of care available, and evacuation contacts and procedures. The phone numbers (911 or 112, etc) and/or VHF contacts should also be known. This data should be included in the Cruise Book to ensure that each Captain and Crew is aware and has it available onboard. Ideally, the briefing for each location/venue of the cruise would include the local information. At least a reference to the appropriate page of the Cruise Book would be helpful.

It should be made clear to the members and guests through the bulletins and within a statement inside the Cruise Book that each individual needs to be responsible for their own pharmaceuticals and potential health care during the cruise. This applies to all levels of first aid up to and including when it is appropriate to call 911 or declare an emergency. At this point it must be noted that there are economical medical evacuation insurance policies available that require contact immediately after emergency care is administered.

As a general policy all "Mayday Medical Emergencies" (Medical emergencies that are imminently or potentially life threatening) should be handled directly by the 911 or 112 etc rescue organization to expedite care. It is also recommended that cruise participants have available a health form that includes their medical problems, medications, medication allergies as well as contact information for their primary care physician. This is especially helpful in an acute situation. Food allergies may also be of particular importance to the Cruise leaders.

The Fleet Surgeon may or may not be on the Cruise. The Cruise may or may not have a medical officer. These positions are traditional in nature and should not indicate there is actually a surgeon or a physician available. In fact these positions are advisory (to the Flag Officers and Cruise Leaders) only. A doctor is not On Call.

There may be professional medical participants on the Cruise. There are professional, ethical, insurance, and legal reasons that will make them unavailable to assist a particular medical need. If a professional chooses to get involved it is on a Good Samaritan basis only. They may be informed of a situation but it is inappropriate to ask them to get involved. If they choose they may, as a Good Samaritan, offer advice or assistance. This is a delicate and sensitive subject and should be treated as such.

We are an adventurous, independent group that is better trained than most to handle difficult medical issues. With the information you can provide through your preparation be assured that a small group of your friends here can likely take care of themselves.

Prepared in Consultation with,

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