



The Falkland Islands Government

Director of Emergency Services, Stanley, Falkland Islands

To: Tour Companies and Tour Operators

6th August 2013

Travel and Medical Insurance

The Executive Council of the Falkland Islands wishes to remind all visitors to the Falkland Islands – including day trip passengers on cruise vessels -of the requirement to have adequate travel and, more particularly, medical and aero medical evacuation insurance in place for the duration of their visit.

As you will see from the attached document medical treatment in the Falkland Islands is not free to non-residents. The exception to this is where a reciprocal health care agreement is in place with another country and currently the only such agreement is with the UK for residents of that country. However, the reciprocal agreement with the UK does not include cover for the cost of aero medical evacuation of seriously ill or injured patients by air ambulance to a country outside the Falkland Islands (e.g. Santiago, Chile, or Montevideo, Uruguay). All visitors to the Falkland Islands – except those covered for local treatments by the reciprocal agreement with the UK should therefore be in possession of travel/medical insurance providing for the cost of:

- a. Local treatment including hospitalisation and the cost of any drugs supplied;
- b. Emergency aero medical evacuation by air ambulance to a country in South America;
- c. Repatriation to their home country by normal air carrier and/or air ambulance.

The cost of an air ambulance to Santiago is circa US\$32,000; other aircraft can cost US\$90,000. Treatment and repatriation costs are additional, so medical insurance cover for a) to c) above to a value of at least US\$200,000 is therefore very strongly recommended.

It is extremely important that all visitors to the Falkland Islands are aware of the situation regarding access to medical services, including medevac/air ambulance facilities, and the attached document provides details of who is and who is not entitled to free access to medical services in the Falklands.

Yours sincerely

Barry Marsden Director of Emergency Services & Principal Immigration Officer

ENTITLEMENT TO TREATMENT BY THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT HEALTH SERVICES

The following rules regarding entitlement to treatment by the Falkland Islands Government's Health and Medical Services Department were agreed by Executive Council on 20 September 2001. Some minor amendments to reflect changes in health services delivery, and for clarification, were made on 9 March 2006.

Introduction These rules do not apply to Military personnel, Ministry of Defence civilians or contractors, or their dependants, all of whom are covered by a separate Memorandum of Understanding.

Health services in the Falkland Islands are provided by the Department of Health and Social Services headed by the Director of Health Services. With the exception of certain items, such as spectacles, travel vaccinations, some dental treatments, and residential care, all services provided on the Islands are currently free at point of need to residents of the Islands. Additionally, under the provisions of a reciprocal agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom, residents of the Falkland Islands are entitled to the same treatment from the UK National Health Service as UK residents and a number of patients from the Falklands are referred there each year. The Falkland Islands Government remains responsible for the travel costs and, where appropriate, accommodation and treatment costs for residents of the Islands referred for treatment to the UK or South America.

Entitlement to treatment

Entitlement to treatment by the FIG Health Services will be accorded to all persons currently residing in the Falkland Islands who:

are Falkland Islanders, or
have been granted a Permanent Residence Permit, or
have been granted a Residence Permit or Work Permit enabling them to stay in the Falkland Islands for a period of six months or more (the entitlement to treatment begins on their day of arrival in the Falkland Islands), or
are covered by a reciprocal health care agreement with the Falkland Islands (currently such an agreement only exists with the United Kingdom Government and covers local treatments only).

Not Entitled to Treatment

The following are not entitled to treatment and will be expected to meet the costs of their treatment together with associated administrative and travel (medical evacuation) expenses:

Tourists and visitors to the Islands unless they are normally resident in a country with which the FIG has a reciprocal agreement (at present only with the UK for local treatments only).

Merchant seamen, fishermen and crews of ships visiting the Falkland Islands or operating in the Falkland Islands Conservation Zone (FICZ) unless they, as individuals, are normally resident in a country with which the Falkland Islands Government has a reciprocal agreement (at present only with the UK for local treatments only).

Anyone not covered by the UK/FI reciprocal health care agreement (for local treatments only) and who is employed in the Islands on a contract of less than six months. Anyone in this category should be in possession of a medical insurance policy which includes provision for emergency medical evacuation to South America, the United Kingdom, or their home country.

In the event that a non-entitled person is unable to pay and/or is uninsured, FIG may in its discretion provide treatment to stabilise their condition but will not meet repatriation or medical evacuation costs.