

DrillSafe Forum – June 2009 – Sydney

Emergency Response & Medical Evacuation



**Medical and
Occupational Health
Service**

Introduction

OIL SEARCH LIMITED



Definitions

- **Medivac** - the timely and efficient movement (and en route care provided by medical personnel) of sick / injured patients being evacuated from the scene of an accident or clinic to receiving medical facilities, using medically equipped ground vehicles or aircraft
- **Medical transfer** - patient transfer to a more advanced medical facility for definitive treatment
- **Medical Repatriation** is to be used when a patient is being transferred home for convalescence, having received medical treatment



Standards

- Oil Search is committed to the medical support of all staff (including contractors) to ensure that medical emergencies, response and evacuation if required is managed in an efficient and timely manner and to an acceptable standard
- Practices are benchmarked against contemporary medical standards
- We don't outsource the management of emergencies including evacuation unless we require more resources than what is available



Model

- Clinical Governance is a core focus of the service to ensure that we maintain known standards and apply a continuous improvement approach to service quality
- Standards and procedures are to an international contemporary medical nature
- Service applies 24/7 preparedness
- External medical advice is sought from engaged company medical specialists who clearly understand the company's goals and objectives



Medivac destination

- Decisions regarding medical evacuation or the transfer of patients is made by the attending physician in conjunction with in-country Medical Coordinators including the company's Chief Medical Officer
- Patients are only sent to pre-approved medical / hospital facilities whereby definitive medical care can be provided
- The most convenient, appropriate, definitive / contemporary medical facility closest to the patient's home location is selected



Other considerations

- Ensure a central point-of-contact is available at the referral facility, so that all requirements are coordinated through one person
- The medical service must undertake an appropriate post case audit of clinic practices
- Don't ever forget the relatives



Other considerations

- Bureaucratic processes should not interrupt medical emergencies i.e. monetary approval for the medivac
- Customs and immigration requirements must be effectively managed otherwise serious delays may occur
- Strict confidentiality must be maintained by everyone involved
- Not having a baseline medical assessment (i.e. pre-employment /annual medical) of staff members, means that pre-existing medical conditions cannot be excluded when a patient presents with an urgent medical condition