



TheFirstCall

International Centre for Maritime Medicine
Emergency Department
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary

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OVER 75 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN MARITIME MEDICINE



SERVING MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COMPANIES GLOBALLY

From hospital doctors with an unrivalled breadth and depth of specialised knowledge and experience in maritime medicine, based at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary,

They have been at the forefront of caring for people who fall ill or are injured throughout the world's oceans and seas, since the advent of radio communications.

- **DIRECT TO HOSPITAL DOCTOR 24/7**
- **ONSHORE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

The sea is a very different and often challenging environment in which to have a medical incident. There may be no medical professionals available and access to qualified medical care may be hours or a day or more away. This may result in passengers or crew being acutely exposed.



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For patient safety, duty of care and best medical outcomes, those responsible for medical care, no matter how remote must have tele-medical support delivering evidenced based medicine and the full decision support of a teaching and research hospital with specialist services and clinical governance.

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“where the quality of medical advice and experience matters”

“As a result they have a deep and personal understanding of the marine environment.”

- Should a crewmember develop a fever during voyage, is it the cold, flu or something more serious and what is the best course of action?
- Another complains of severe stomach cramps, is it food poisoning or something else?
- Or in the event of a significant injury or sudden onset of serious illness – what is best for the patient and where should you access that help from ?
- The doctors who can help achieve the best outcome for the patient In these situations, no matter how minor, are those who have unrivalled experience in medical care in the marine and remote environment.
- This may involve specialised medical strategies and is where the quality of medical advice and experience matters.



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- We provide that support to vessels today, Direct to Doctor, 24/7 from the world's leaders in this field, they are working in the Emergency Department, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary caring for those people every day.
- They have been at the forefront of caring for people who fall ill or are injured throughout the world's oceans, since the advent of radio communications.
- You will have access to to the most up to date, evidence based medical advice during the evaluation, diagnosis, clinical management and treatment of patients.
- All calls are answered by a senior emergency physicians in a hospital, supported by a multi-discipline clinical team ensuring, rapid access to specialist advice.



**“ all calls are taken by senior
emergency physicians in a hospital,
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary”**



DIRECT TO DOCTOR 24/7

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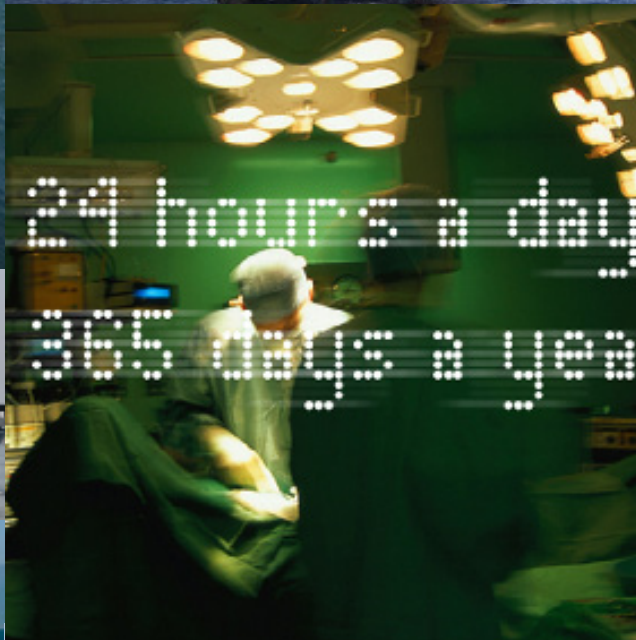
- Medical incidents in remote locations are often the most challenging to confront anybody. Rapid but well considered decisions may need to be made, especially if you are some distance away from definite medical care. Working closely with our doctors you will together deliver a solution that is in the patient's best interest and safety.
- Our doctors are very experienced in understanding your operational challenges, there is over 75 years experience here in evidence based medicine in the pre-hospital environment.
- You will have direct contact with those senior and experienced physicians who daily care for passengers and crew who are injured or fall ill throughout the worlds oceans and seas. They are here to support you in this decision making and help care for the patient.
- They are based at the International Centre for Emergency Medicine, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Europe's largest single site teaching and research hospital complex and provide care for shipping and the energy industry throughout the world

International Centre of Medical Excellence



“ 5 Nobel prizes have been awarded to researchers in Aberdeen”

- Our doctors, work in the Emergency Medicine department of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, which is a major international centre of medical excellence.
- It is Europe's largest single site hospital complex with 2,100 beds. In this world leading health care institution, physicians treat complex and difficult cases and produce groundbreaking medical discovery leading directly to world-class, evidence based medical care.
- They are the recognised world leaders in telemedicine with over 70 years experience of diagnosing, monitoring and treating patients in remote environments eliminating distance as a barrier to medical excellence. This includes work with the European Space Agency on the most effective way of communicating medical information.
- 2,350 doctors and 4,650 nurses work in the acute hospital complex providing the complete range of medical and clinical specialities.
- With today's explosion of medical discovery and knowledge, it is challenging for doctors working outwith major hospitals to keep abreast of the latest developments in medical care. “This often creates a chasm between what is known and what is being applied to patients”.
- Our teaching and research hospital based doctors are fully conversant with recent medical developments and the latest evidence in pre-hospital care.
- As part of an internationally designated medical rescue centre, they will utilise this evidence with their experience and medical skills, and with your requirements provide a tailored solution for your individual needs.
- Our physicians are some of the best doctors in the world in their respective fields. They take pride in putting the health, comfort and well being of their patients above all else. Together, all of our staff and clinicians work tirelessly toward personal care for our patients



- The emergency medicine team in Aberdeen who provide the service are the leaders in remote and maritime medicine.
- This is a real live international rescue centre and the designated medical maritime rescue coordination centre for the North Sea and North Atlantic, and where injured and ill patients are received after medical incidents at sea.
- They give medical advice, support and assistance to those in difficulty around the world, and are also on duty in the largest Accident & Emergency service in the UK.
- Their breadth and depth of specialised medical knowledge in the field of maritime medicine is unrivalled and this committed team of doctors use their research & experience to examine and introduce improvements to existing services, ensuring that they will always be leaders in providing medical care to those at sea.
- They are establishing the world's first evidence based protocols for remote health care and the worlds first offshore service in thrombolysis for heart attack patients is being pioneered for the Oil & Gas industry.

“The links between medical excellence and the sea are long established in Aberdeen”

Medicine has been taught as a science in Aberdeen for over 500 years and marine activity has been shown to exist since the first century AD. The sailing boat, the *Thermopylae*, was built in Aberdeen in 1868; she created her first record (still not beaten by a sailing ship) on her maiden voyage from Gravesend, England to Melbourne, Australia.

The ‘*Thermopylae*’ was built primarily for speed and incorporated the now tried and tested ‘Aberdeen Bow’. The route she had been destined to ply was the Far Eastern Tea Trade (hence Tea Clipper). Speed was of the essence on this route to bring Tea to Europe as quickly as possible (so to beat the competition and command the best prices for the merchant in the fierce European Tea Market).

‘*Thermopylae*’ created her first record (still not beaten by a sailing ship) on her maiden voyage from Gravesend, England to Melbourne, Australia. She sailed the voyage land to land in a record 60 days, her skipper; Captain Kemball.

She then broke another record, making Newcastle, New South Wales to Shanghai in 28 days (usually about 40+ days at the time). She then made London from Foochow in a breathtaking 91 days. Her greatest rival, the ‘*Cutty Sark*’ only ever beat ‘*Thermopylae*’s’ speeds on the return journey to Britain, though this is open to scrutiny, as they were never actually raced at the same time and under the same conditions (‘*Cutty Sark*’ was loaded for racing whilst ‘*Thermopylae*’ was loaded to the gunnels for financial gain...typically Aberdeenian.....).

‘*Thermopylae*’ and the ‘Aberdeen Line’ fleet in general maintained a reputation across all their routes for style and class, the ships always gleaming like new pins on arrival in port with their glistening green livery.

“Today the harbour serves the multinational energy industry globally”





Established by royal charter in 1497 there is over 500 years of medical excellence and continuing discovery in delivering the latest procedures in caring for patients



- Aberdeen Royal Infirmary is the clinical resource of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aberdeen where over 16,000 students from 120 different countries study 630 separate degree programmes
- Medicine has been taught in Aberdeen for over 5 Centuries. The Regius Chair of Medicine of the University Medical School was endowed in 1497 by King James IV of Scotland and is the first chair of medicine to be established in the world. The Faculty is staffed by over 300 professors and senior consultants, and supports over 800 medical students.
- Over 1,500 people work in the Institute of Medical Research which includes state of the art Investigative and diagnostic equipment. 5 Nobel prizes have been awarded to researchers at the University where Life science employs 1500 people. This is the highest concentration of life scientists in Europe.





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