



International Medical Guide for Ships: Including the Ship's Medicine Chest

World Health Organization

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The third edition of the *International Medical Guide for Ships* shows designated first-aid providers how to diagnose treat and prevent the health problems of seafarers on board ship.

Since its first publication in 1967, the *International Medical Guide for Ships* has been a standard reference for medical care on board ships. The second edition written in 1988 was translated into more than 30 languages and has been used in tens of thousands of ships. This is the third edition contains fully updated recommendations aimed to promote and protect the health of seafarers and is consistent with the latest revisions of both the *WHO Model List of Essential Medicines* and the *International Health Regulations*.

The International Labour Organization's Maritime Labour Convention 2006 stipulates that all ships shall carry medicine chest medical equipment and a medical guide. The *International Medical Guide for Ships* supports a main principal of that convention: to ensure that seafarers are given health protection and medical care as comparable as possible to that which is generally available to workers ashore.

By carrying this guide on board ships and following its instructions, countries can both fulfill their obligations under the terms of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and ensure the best possible health outcomes for their seafaring population.

****International Medical Guide for Ships* was commended in the Medicine category of the British Medical Association's 2008 annual Medical Book Competition***



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