

18 March 2020

## **Onboard Medical Guidance Videos**

The requirements for basic medical training for ship's officers (and any refresher training) vary depending on the flag state / statutory requirements. Ships which are not required to carry a qualified medical doctor do need to have at least one seafarer designated as being in charge of the medical care of the onboard crew as part of their regular duties. Typically referred to as the ship's medical officer, these seafarers may be required to make decisions based on a limited level of training compared to that received by a qualified doctor. When combined with a low frequency of onboard serious medical incidents, this may make those responsible for the diagnosis and delivery of medical care feel less prepared than they would like to be.

Against this background, Britannia has partnered with UnitedHealthcare Global to create a series of guidance videos to reinforce the training and confidence of the medical officers on our Members' ships and to improve the primary care available to the crew using the medication and equipment commonly available on board. UnitedHealthcare delivers specialist medical services and provides a comprehensive range of products and services to safeguard the health, wellbeing and productivity of global workforces.

We are pleased to inform Members that these videos are now available to view in the [Videos](#) section of the Britannia website. There are currently 33 'bitesize' videos covering various topics under the following broad headings:

- Infections and use of antibiotics
- Fracture management and joint pain
- Abdominal pain
- Skin conditions, burns and allergies
- Use of the diagnostic equipment

The videos are designed for routine training purposes, but when faced with a medical incident the appropriate video should also serve as a helpful refresher or guidance for the medical officer. As well as the general discussion videos, there are also several practical videos providing guidance on physical examinations.

Ships are, of course, required to carry written medical guidance onboard - such as the International Medical Guide for Ships (published by the World Health Organisation (WHO)) or the Ship Captain's Medical Guide (published by the United Kingdom Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)). In addition, the ship's medical officer will also have access to telemedicine services such as the free service provided by the International Radio Medical Centre (CIRM) Roma, or to the commercial providers to which some Members may have subscribed. The videos are not intended to be a substitute for either of the Medical Guides or these other services: the videos are designed to complement them, and, where appropriate, to help ensure that the care provided is appropriate and as effective as possible for the period that the sick or injured crewmember is being treated on board.

If Members have any queries about the videos, or would like to provide their feedback on them, they are invited to email the Managers at [MedicalVideos@tindallriley.com](mailto:MedicalVideos@tindallriley.com).

**Please note that the videos do not refer to Covid-19 as they were prepared before the current outbreak.**