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Health Onboard is the most recent development in our company's service package.

G.M.A or Global Medical Logistical Assistance was founded in 2000 with the primary aim to improve maritime healthcare by using modern but simple and cost saving communication technologies. With Health Onboard we can monitor and treat a seafarer's health condition/problem quick and efficient. You might say that we provide both physical as well as mental care to seafarers. A fit and healthy seafarer means a healthy ship!

▶ Our experience has taught us that there is a great need for a good working medical healthcare system for seafarers. On a preventive level (medical fitness examinations, vaccination policy, drug and alcohol prevention, etc.) as well as in case of a medical emergency onboard.

It's in everybody's interest to offer high quality medical care to every seafarer. Both national governments, ship owners, shipping companies as well as the seafarers benefit greatly from a optimal working health care system that is especially orientated on the very specific needs of the shipping industry.

G.M.A works with a team of highly experienced maritime doctors and specialists who are 'on call' 24/7, 365 days a year to offer the best possible medical assistance.

▶ **Health Onboard products and services**

▪ **'Vital Cure' soft ware :**

This software program is specially developed to provide medical assistance via e-mail. But it can do much more than 'just' sending messages....

At the start of each trip, the entire crew will be listed in a database, the 'crew list'. If a medical question or an emergency occurs, the responsible officer first selects the name of the person involved from the database and is led, step by step, through a medical questionnaire (so that no vital questions/information is lost). Also pictures, EKG's and X-rays, sound and video files can be attached. The purpose of this step-by-step questionnaire is to gather as much information as possible that enables the doctor of Health Onboard to form a first diagnose, give advice and start treatment. Also all follow-ups are organized swift and secure with this system.

The Vital Cure program controls all medical activities onboard a ship. Such as:

- Communication with our doctors on land
- Medical logbook, keeps a record of all medical events on board
- Automatic stock management of the medical chest
- Keeping a vaccination list
- Providing information and guidelines on current medical problems (e.g. the outbreak of a certain epidemic, but also showing how to treat a certain injury, etc.)

All medical information is kept on the ship's computer (local) and NOT on the internet. So no third party relay of personal information is possible.



- **Training**

Already for many years, G.M.A. organizes training courses in first aid for seafarers, port personnel as well as off-shore personnel. Our training courses are compliant with the different international and national regulations. (STCW, IMO, ILO, WHO)

- **Medical data management**

Medical fitness examinations, consultations and treatments take place all over the world. G.M.A. integrates all these data in one central medical database, managed by experienced maritime physicians. In this way, the ship owner gets a better view on the medical problems and a consistent medical policy can be developed.

- **Medical fitness examinations**

Health Onboard has developed a complete new system of medical examination guidelines (the new Belgian Royal Decree of 31 may 2006 is based on these guidelines) that allows all doctors (from different countries) to perform the medical fitness examination of seafarers in ONE uniform way and to evaluate the results of these examinations according to the same standards.

Further more, all results can be centrally managed in a central database. Of course, the different fitness provisions of the different flag countries are taken into account when issuing a medical fitness certificate.

Health Onboard also assists the shipping companies and ship owners in selecting foreign clinics. Health Onboard can select the clinics, harmonizes the pre-employment and periodic medical fitness examinations of seafarers in various clinics in different countries, follows up the results and can audit foreign clinics that do fitness examinations.

- **Case management**

If a crewmember has to be hospitalized or evacuated, Health Onboard follows up the patient. If corrections in treatment are necessary, Health Onboard can actively intervene in a case and take over from other organizations.



Why choose Health Onboard ?

- With the **Vital Cure** software program a ship has a quick and reliable link with experienced doctors.
This important part of our service is expressed in our slogan: **CONNECTED TO CARE**
- Seafarers will have a good and safe feeling, working and living aboard their ship, knowing and experiencing that there is a quick connection to healthcare.
- The quick and adequate treatment of a medical condition, saves lives and saves a lot of money and unnecessary stress.
- Health Onboard dedicates a lot of effort and attention to prevention and training.
- Health Onboard processes the necessary expertise to establish a tailor made health care policy for seafarers and shipping companies/ship owners.
- Health Onboard ensures that all medical records and fitness examination results are centrally managed and correctly interpreted. This results in a better care system, prevention, coaching and counseling of seafarers and their ship.
- Our system demands a relative low investment and a minimum of modifications and is very user friendly (no special training required).
- Health Onboard uses web-technology in order to provide fast, efficient and reliable medical assistance.

What can Health Onboard do for a Ship Owner / Shipping company ?

- We develop a consistent and adequate medical policy
- We supply 24/7 medical assistance
- We provide on-line instructions and guidelines through the internet
- Stock management of the medical chest
- Follow up of patients
- Centralised medical data management

These are the actual benefits of our system:

- It's cost reducing:
 - Prevents unnecessary deviations of the ship
 - Prevents unnecessary evacuations
 - Prevents expensive treatments on shore
 - Prevents high insurance claims and provisions
- Health Onboard gives your company a positive image
- Increases 'job satisfaction' and will increase the individual seafarers work motivation
- Less employees turnover rate
- Your company fully complies with all national and international requirements.



For the moment, medical assistance is still provided through radio. However, this classic communication channel has its disadvantages:

- Because the radio medical advice is provided by national institutions, the quality of the advice can vary from country to country.
- These national institutions are more aimed at 'search and rescue', where Health Onboard focuses more on providing real assistance to a paramedic onboard of a ship.
- The radio message is not always received very well, which can cause all kinds of differences in the interpretation of the advice.

So why not use the internet, as a communication channel for medical purposes ?
The advantages are numerous:

- World wide access
- All messages are prepared off-line before they are being sent.
Therefore, the costs of the communications are kept to a minimum.
- All messages or emergency calls are sent to 1 medical alarm centre, that is linked to all kinds of specialists, like cardiologists, dermatologists etc.

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