



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL NAPLES
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From: MTF Director, U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, Italy
To: All Overseas Screening Facilities

Subj: OVERSEAS SUITABILITY SCREENING AND AVAILABLE MEDICAL
TREATMENT CAPABILITIES IN THE NAPLES AREA

Ref: (a) BUMEDINST 1300.2B
(b) OPNAVINST 1300.14D

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), the capabilities and limitations below reflect the medical care available in and around U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Naples, Italy. This list is not comprehensive, but reflects the clinical experience of the USNH Naples staff.
2. Inadequate overseas medical screening is a common and costly problem for all overseas locations, and particularly the Naples Area. Beneficiaries have transferred to this area with medical problems far beyond the existing medical capabilities of USNH Naples and the local preferred provider network. From 2016 to 2020, 42 patients needed to be Early Returned CONUS and approximately 38% had been due to inadequate overseas screenings with inaccurate information.
3. The Suitability Screening Committee at USNH Naples, Italy meets weekly. It is a multi-disciplinary group of clinicians who examine each overseas screening case and make a recommendation based on the local capabilities. The recommendations are routed to the MTF Director for final determination and then sent to the sending screening office. This takes a certain amount of time and there is great care taken, for the safety of incoming service members and their families, to ensure an appropriate determination. The following capabilities and diagnoses reflect an increased likelihood of disapproval recommendation to the MTF Director.
4. Naval Hospital Naples consists of the following departments:
 - a. Medical Services:
 - (1) Family Practice.
 - (2) Pediatrics.
 - (3) Internal Medicine.
 - (4) Emergency Medicine.

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b. Surgical Services:

- (1) General Surgery.
- (2) Orthopedics.
- (3) Obstetrics/Gynecology.
- (4) Otolaryngology.
- (5) Ophthalmology.
- (6) Medical Optometry.
- (7) Anesthesia.

c. Ancillary Services:

- (1) Radiology.
- (2) Laboratory Services.
- (3) Pharmacy.
- (4) Physical Therapy.

d. Mental Health Services:

- (1) Adult Psychiatry.
- (2) Adult Psychology.
- (3) Social Work.
- (4) Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program.

e. Occupational Health Services:

- (1) Occupational Medicine.
- (2) Audiology.
- (3) Industrial Hygiene.
- (4) Preventive Medicine.

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f. Dental Services:

- (1) General Dentistry.
- (2) Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery.
- (3) Prosthodontics.
- (4) Periodontics.
- (5) Endodontics.
- (6) Orthodontics.
- (7) Pediatric Dentistry.
- (8) Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology.

5. The following conditions within each of the above listed areas are likely to require specific justification and review by the USNH Naples Suitability Screening Committee. Each screening is considered on an individual basis, but the following are likely to be outside the standard capabilities of USNH Naples and may require a medical or dental inquiry to be processed.

a. Medical Services:

(1) Pulmonary Disorders: including anyone with any asthma or pulmonary problems who has ever received multiple drug regimens, steroids, frequent emergency room utilization, or previous inpatient stays related to pulmonary problems. Pediatric patients with a diagnosis and/or history of asthma/reactive airway disease, even a "mild" condition is disqualifying for transfer to Naples.

(2) Cardiovascular Disease: including patients who have had angioplasty, CABGs, pacemakers, poorly controlled hypertension, artificial valves, or angina.

(3) Cerebrovascular or Peripheral Vascular Disease: including cerebrovascular accidents (CVA), transient ischemic attacks (TIA), claudication, or aortic aneurysm.

(4) Renal Disease: including post-transplant patients, chronic renal failure, and patients requiring dialysis.

(5) Active Gastrointestinal or Liver Disease: including chronic hepatitis, obstructive biliary disease, cirrhosis, portal hypertension, and recurrent pancreatitis.

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(6) Rheumatological Disease: including Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), and severe disabling Rheumatoid Arthritis.

(7) Neuromuscular or Neurological Disorders requiring specialty care: e.g. Seizure Disorders, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Autism or uncontrolled Attention Deficit Disorder.

(8) Any patient on investigational drugs or rarely used drugs that require close monitoring by a specialist, or are not listed in the Tri-Service formulary.

(9) Any past or present history of malignant diseases requiring monitoring or chemotherapy.

(10) Patients requiring sophisticated equipment support: including insulin pumps, constant oxygen, bracing, or prosthetics.

(11) Any genetic or congenital disease that requires specialty care: including Down's syndrome.

(12) Pediatrics: General Pediatricians staff the Pediatric Department and provide basic outpatient primary care to children. Sub-specialty care cannot be guaranteed. Any child classified EFMP category III or above, or otherwise requiring regular pediatric sub-specialty care, will require review by the committee. The following conditions are outside the scope of basic care:

(a) Premature birth (<36 weeks) with any on-going growth/developmental needs or associated complications related to premature birth.

(b) Pediatric mental health (counseling, psychology, psychiatry).

(c) Children requiring non-formulary medications without proven stability.

b. Surgical Services:

(1) General Surgical patients:

(a) Inflammatory Bowel Disease: including active Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's disease - (well-controlled inflammatory bowel disease is not an automatic disqualification, but the Head, General Surgery Department, must clear each case).

(b) Patients requiring Chemotherapy.

(c) Untreated Breast Masses.

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(d) Patients with abnormal mammograms suspicious for malignancy.

(2) OB/GYN patients:

(a) ONLY basic obstetric and gynecologic services available at USNH Naples. Urogynecology, Gynecologic Oncology, High Risk Obstetrics, and Reproductive Endocrinology services are NOT available at USNH Naples.

(b) USNH Naples is UNABLE to manage and deliver multiple gestation pregnancies (twins). While not disqualifying, all multiple pregnancies (twins, triplets) will be transferred to the Italian medical network.

(c) Trial of labor after cesarean (TOLAC or VBAC) is taken into consideration. USNH Naples uses the TOLAC calculator to evaluate risk. If the risk is too high patients desiring a TOLAC have the opportunity to deliver in the Italian medical network.

(d) Patients requiring, or with a history of, cancer treatment (within 5 years) to include surgery or chemotherapy, are not candidates to be stationed at USNH Naples. This does not include cervical dysplasia or carcinoma-in-situ of the cervix.

(e) Pregnant patients, or patients planning on becoming pregnant, are not candidates if they have a past history of: Heart Disease (Mitral Valve Prolapse excluded); Autoimmune Diseases such as Lupus; bleeding diathesis (disorders of the blood which prevent clotting) such as Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura; Diabetes requiring insulin, if accompanied by Hypertension or Renal Disease or if Diabetes is difficult to control; hypertension that is difficult to control, controlled with more than one medication or accompanied by renal problems; any other complicated medical history that would require frequent Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialty assessments.

(f) USNH Naples does NOT have a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or high-risk maternal unit and therefore can treat only patients who are 36 weeks or greater. If a baby is delivered <36 weeks, or with medical conditions requiring higher level of services, the baby will be transferred to the Italian medical network facility with appropriate level of care. Therefore, patients with a complicated obstetrical history that may lead to a preterm delivery or in need of long-term hospital care are not good candidates for USNH Naples. Conditions affected include: incompetent cervix, premature delivery <36 weeks, pre-term premature rupture of membranes necessitating prolonged bedrest or delivery <36 weeks; severe growth restriction; and severe pre-eclampsia necessitating delivery <36 weeks, or eclampsia (with convulsions) and any other conditions that require long-term in-hospital care.

(g) Infertility problems necessitating assisted reproductive technology not available at USNH Naples and are performed only in Italian facilities and at patient expense. This includes in-vitro fertilization, artificial insemination, and tubal sterilization reversal.

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(3) Orthopedic conditions: including unresolved cervical/lumbar radiculopathy, neck pain unresponsive to treatment, low back pain unresponsive to treatment, congenital musculoskeletal deformity requiring surgical treatment, conditions requiring custom orthotics, spina bifida with neurologic compromise, cerebral palsy, osteogenesis imperfecta, musculoskeletal neoplasm, juvenile and adult systemic arthropathies (i.e. Rheumatoid Arthritis, SLE), reflex sympathetic dystrophy, progressive scoliosis, end-stage hip and knee osteoarthritis requiring joint replacement surgery, need for revision orthopedic surgery, and any unexplained and/or progressive chronic musculoskeletal pain.

(4) Otolaryngology conditions: including head and neck cancers currently requiring removal, radiation therapy or chemotherapy, chronic dizziness, and children and adults with a tracheotomy, and children requiring evaluation of the larynx and esophagus or any other recurrent condition requiring/anticipating multiple surgical procedures over a three year interval, or procedures requiring specialty equipment not contained at USNH Naples. Examples would include recurrent respiratory papillomatosis, any conditions requiring recurrent treatment with a laser, or unresolved complex middle ear pathology (i.e. untreated cholesteatoma).

(5) Ophthalmologic conditions: including Pediatric Glaucoma, degenerative retinal disorders in the pediatric group requiring special monitoring, uncontrolled uveitis, uveitis requiring chronic systemic medical therapy, history of Ocular/Choroidal Melanoma, and history of severe dry eyes, and severe blepharoconjunctivitis or severe ocular allergic disorders. (NOTE: All ACUDU and family members who wear spectacles should arrive with two pair of spectacles).

(6) Urologic conditions requiring ongoing treatment including ureteral stent, urethral stricture requiring dilation, and Obstructive Prostatic Hypertrophy.

c. Ancillary Services:

(1) Radiology: Patients with vascular diseases which have been previously evaluated/diagnosed with angiography (since these patients may need emergent angiography/thrombolysis) and patients that need radiation therapy. Specialist required close follow-up or serial MRI and/or CT will be reviewed in terms of the underlying condition and not a disqualifier in itself.

(2) Laboratory: Disqualifiers are all related to the blood bank as follows: bleeding disorders such as Von Willebrand's Disease, Hemophilia, Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) and other clotting abnormalities that require a large, fully stocked blood bank. Hematologic diseases such as undefined anemia, sickle cell anemia, and hemolytic disease of the newborn. Any disease requiring plasmapheresis or other various hemapheresis therapy. Chronic disorders that may require specialized tests for ongoing monitoring should precipitate messages /inquiries directed toward our reference laboratory capability before a patient is approved for overseas assignments.

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(3) Pharmacy: Investigational medications are not available at this command. The MTF Pharmacy and Therapeutic (P&T) committee published and maintains a formulary of locally stocked medications that can be accessed via hospital intranet homepage. Medications that are not included in the DoD Basic Core Formulary (BCF) may be approved by hospital P&T committee for procurement, and require extended turn-around time for replenishment. Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) program is another option to obtain these medications for eligible beneficiaries to refill up to 90-day supply prior to departure. Patients are encouraged to collaborate with your PCM and the pharmacy to immediately order these medications upon patient arrival to the Naples area to ensure uninterrupted medication compliance. Critical medications that are difficult to procure/order should precipitate messages or an inquiry to our pharmacy department before patients are approved for overseas duty. While this is rarely disqualifying, preparation in this area is essential.

(4) Physical Therapy: Paraplegia or quadriplegia, pediatric neurological problems (e.g. Cerebral Palsy), congenital conditions requiring special bracing, cardiac rehabilitation, Multiple Sclerosis, CVA rehabilitation, and prosthetic training.

d. Mental Health Services: Overseas duty can be very stressful due to the many challenges of living in a foreign country. Psychiatric illness can be greatly amplified in such an environment.

(1) Mental Disorders:

(a) Within the last 1 year: Lack of symptom stability via psychotherapy and/or medication, or experience of sexual assault.

(b) Within the last 2 years: Active or substantiated family advocacy case, child or adolescent treatment of a psychiatric illness for any reason, or chronic posttraumatic stress disorder.

(c) Within the last 3 years: Major depressive episode (not including partial or sustained remission), panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, or any anxiety disorder with panic attacks.

(d) Within 5 years: Suicide attempt/gesture, active eating disorders, substance use disorder.

(e) Within the last 10 years: One or more recommendations for or necessity for inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations, day hospitalization, partial hospitalization or residential treatment. Mental health conditions requiring ongoing individual/family therapy more than once per month, such as personality disorders, psychiatric conditions requiring use of non-formulary medications, aggressive, destructive and/or illegal behaviors, psychiatric conditions requiring the use of Lithium, current or inadequately treated substance dependence or abuse, Psychotic

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disorders, Bipolar disorders, Dementia, Factitious disorders, Dissociative disorders, Sexual Addiction, or Somatoform disorders.

e. Occupational Health Services: Occupational Medicine's role in overseas screening takes the form of pre-employment screening for civilian employees wanting to transfer to, or begin employment here in Naples. Beyond assessing an applicant's job specific capabilities, we depend upon the Naval Hospital clinical staff for adjunct specialty evaluation and care of our eligible employees. Accordingly, the clinical limitations in these situations are the same as those for any other beneficiary. No limitations unique to Occupational Medicine need be imposed. Failure to follow the prescribed Navy-directed evaluation of prospective overseas transferees and failure to solicit suitability determinations from the responsible overseas MTFs cause the most difficulties.

f. Dental Services:

(1) Orthodontics, prosthodontics, and pediatric dentistry services are limited to active duty (U.S. military) service members and their dependents only. Additionally, the eligibility for care will be made on a case-by-case basis and guided by the applicable DHA or Service Guidance.

(2) Elective and/or cosmetic procedures that are not medically necessary will have to be pursued in the available Network (to include LRMC) and financed entirely by the member.

(3) Individuals in class 3 or 4 status are not suitable for overseas duty unless treatment can be completed by the current MTF prior to transfer.

(4) For routine or continuing access to specialized dental care, the gaining MTF should be contacted and agree to accept the case prior to transfer.

(5) Per NAVMED 1300/1, all suitability-screening forms require a Navy MTF dental screener signature even if a civilian provider completed the initial review.

6. We greatly appreciate your cooperation. The point of contact for all overseas screening questions is the Operational Forces Medical Liaison Services office at DSN: 314- 629-6332 or by email: usn.naples.navhospnaplesit.list.fleet-liaison@mail.mil.


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