



July 2015

MEDICAL AND TRAVEL GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES AND SUPPORTERS ATTENDING WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES Argentina 2015

Dear Athletes

Congratulations on being chosen to participate in the World Transplant Games. Your involvement in the Games will contribute greatly to donor awareness. You will also increase the positive attitude towards the rich benefits of transplantation. You will also enjoy remarkable personal development and world friendships. Probably you will achieve personal bests in your chosen events. There are also possibilities that you will win medals. It is anticipated that you are well advanced in your preparation, your training and in your provision of drugs, supplies, equipment and clothing. The following information is provided as a reminder in your preparation for your travels and competition.

STOP PRESS

A) There has been an increase in '**Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)**', especially in susceptible people who have a travel history to the middle east, and/or contact with a Camel! If the participant has symptoms such as cough, nasal discharge, **respiratory difficulty** and uncontrolled fever, with a history of contact or travel in the middle eastern areas, it is imperative that they have a medical check up for possibility of acute contagious disease **before** departing for Argentina and also notify their Team Manager. One should **not** start travel with these symptoms. If participants present with these symptoms in Argentina, they will need to be isolated.

ALL will be required to have their temperature taken when registering in Mar del Plata.

B) Measles - If travelling through Chile – there has been an increase in measles, so suggest you check your measles status with your doctor.

1 Medical Certification

All athletes are required to complete and return the medical certificate for assessment prior to travelling to Argentina. Please return fully completed to your Team Manager, **no later than the 15th July 2015**. If there is missing data, no signature, or hospital stamp, or abnormal results, you may be refused to compete or travel! It is advised to carry a copy.

2 Environmental Conditions

The Games are held in the winter in Argentina with daytime temperatures max 12 degrees Centigrade and night time dropping to 2. The occasional rain shower can also be expected. It is advisable to have warm clothing.

3 Traffic

Road traffic is unpredictable and vehicles travel on the **RIGHT** side of the road. Always look **LEFT** first before trying to cross a road. Be very watchful of other vehicles and especially minibus taxis that change lanes, stop or move off with very little warning.

4 Allergies and other medical condition

If athletes are allergic to peanuts, bees or latex, it will be necessary to wear a **Medic Alert Bracelet** and if possible carry an Epi Pen (auto-injectable) of $1/1000$ Adrenaline/Epinephrine. A simple antihistamine taken per mouth should be carried if a person is allergic. It is also advisable to make a note of this on the accreditation documents carried with you at all times.

5 Hygiene

The venues for accommodation, dining and competition will all provide safe and hygienic environments, food and liquids. The off campus dining will also be very safe. Although the water from taps is safe to drink, a change in local bacteria can still cause traveller-type diarrhoea – **bottled water is therefore advised.**

6 Contagion

Contagious disease is under constant surveillance in Argentina. In the event of a life threatening disease outbreak, the authorities are well placed to contain the disease and will communicate widely and quickly if a disorder such as “bird flu or H3N2 flu” appears in the community. However, it is the responsibility of the athlete to self report if a fever or a rash should develop.

7 Jet Lag

Long flights are responsible for disturbed patterns of sleep, vibration fatigue and disruption of diurnal rhythms. Also the change in time zones may cause the athletes to miss a medication dose. Athletes should be aware that the above challenges persist for several days, the duration being governed by the number of hours of change in the time zone. If the athlete finds that the Argentinean time zone (GMT- 4hrs) is 6 hours ahead of that of your own zone, poor sleeping may persist for a few days. Try to avoid sleeping during daylight.

8 Training

Training requires planning and dedicating a significant amount of time to your preparation. It is necessary to taper before you compete. Therefore in the last week before you travel, your activities should be less intense. Please do not rely on training during the 8 days of the Games as the facilities may be limited and you may do yourself harm.

9 Equipment and Supplies

All equipment, including footwear should be well prepared and worn in. Do not buy new shoes just prior to competition. Please wear footwear in the public showers. Please bring all your own dressings and bandages.

10 Medication

It is vital to ensure that you have a full supply of medication for your trip. In addition it is necessary to have a duplicate supply of medication for the duration of the trip. These supplies should be carried in two separate packages. One package should be kept in your personal belongings and taken as cabin luggage. The other should be packed in the hold suitcase. This is to overcome difficulties if one or other supply is lost. Included in your supply should be Panadol, Vick's vapour rub, liniment methyl salicylic acid or deep heat, antiseptic cream, sun screen and a supply of bandages and dressings which you prefer to use. If you are prone to infection that you take antibiotics for, it is advised to bring a back up supply with you. You may also wish to carry supplementary vitamins and sports electrolyte solutions. ***You should carry a letter or prescription from your clinician outlining the drugs which are essential to your health to ensure that the drugs are not confiscated.*** Do not carry drugs of addiction.

11 Travel Risks and Prevention

You should be aware that being restricted in an aircraft cabin will lead to swelling of your ankles. This is not a result of water overload. It is a consequence of decreased muscle activity of your legs. To overcome this it is necessary to wear one way stretch stockings up to the knees to prevent the swelling.

Once the swelling has occurred it is very difficult to overcome. Therefore prevention is the preferred option. You would also be aware of the risk of deep venous thrombosis. This can be overcome to a large extent by exercising in your seat and walking about. Some team members will also have the opportunity to take a 1/4 of an aspirin every day for a week prior to the travel. However this may be contraindicated so you should ensure this is safe before you do so. Please do not use diuretics to remove the ankle swelling.

12 Dehydration

Aircraft travel and competition is associated with a significant dehydration. One of the commonest failures of transplant athletes in transit and in competition is a failure to maintain hydration. Dehydration may cause side effects such as increasing concentration of immunosuppressive drugs and this should be avoided at all costs. It is necessary to carry fluids with you at all times. Bottled water or sports solutions are always safe and you will be supplied with sealed bottled water during your time in Argentina.

13 Clothing and Keeping Dry

It will be necessary to have layers of light clothing which will cover you completely. Importantly, if, through your activities your clothing becomes moist, it will be necessary to have a change of clothing. Dryness is a key to good health. Similarly, if after competition you perspire or you are wet, it is necessary to dry off completely. To achieve this it is wise to have a supply of towels and dry warm clothing..

14 Injuries, Illness or Medication Complications

It is important that if there is any concern at all amongst the athletes or for that matter the supporters, the LOC medical officer should be notified immediately, AS WELL AS YOUR Team Manager. Please report any infection or rash immediately. A Medical Facility will be available during the day and at night at one of the hotels. There will also be an on call dentist This means that there

will be 24-hr medical services available. Contagion of any viral infection must be prevented.

15 Competing Without Injury

One of the most remarkable characteristics of the games is the success of the physiotherapists and their support for athletes prior to, during and after competition. On this occasion we will have physiotherapists to care for you. You will be very familiar with the appropriate pre-competition warm up and massage and the importance of stretching and warm down. With these strategies it will be possible to compete on several days without becoming extremely stiff.

16 Withdrawal of an Athlete

An athlete who is in any way concerned about competing or if the medical officer is concerned, then the athlete will be advised to miss certain events. Withdrawal from a sporting event should be seen as a possibility in any athlete's life. Do not compete against medical advice!!

17 Failure to Meet Standards

An athlete may not meet the World Transplant Games standards which have been established over the last 30 years. This circumstance will be brought to the attention of the athlete and the Manager. The athlete will be advised not to compete or not to travel.

18 Communication

The athletes should be aware that the administration of the World Transplant Games will be determined to provide excellent communications. Communications however are always flawed. To overcome this we would recommend that wherever possible telephone communication should be made available so that any confusion will be overcome very quickly. Keep all documents in a safe and accessible location. Double check all dates, times and locations. Call your team manager if you have doubts or require advice.

19 Support

It is vital for all athletes to recognise how important supporters will be to their success. Every effort should be made to ensure that a member of the team (either athlete or supporter) is available during competition so that you may be able to look to a friend for support during the event. Do not compete alone. Please ask for help.

20 Diet

You should not be unwilling to partake in the meals/diet available as it will be carefully prepared with your best interest at heart. However it is important to emphasize that trying new food or dishes may be hazardous for athletes. Please carry cashews, raisins and bananas to the events, to avoid missing a meal. Diabetics should carry sugar lollies. Although food establishments are generally safe, participants are cautioned against trying dishes they are unaccustomed to.

21 Insurance

A Medical and Repatriation Insurance Policy will be provided by WTGF to cover all participants' medical emergencies during the period 21st August 2015 to 1st September 2015 – the cost of this is integral in the registration fee. This will not cover illness that started prior to departure for the Games.

Be sure to have additional health and emergency insurance for any travel either side of the Games period. Please bring these documents with you.

22 Teamwork

The athletes and supporters (including the medical officer) should form a friendly and cohesive team where members can talk openly with each other. Be aware of the wellbeing of other participants. Watch out for athletes with hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar). Hypoglycaemia appears as sweating, confusion and collapse.

23 Habits and Illegal Activities

No team member should smoke or participate in the use of recreational drugs. Argentinean laws are particularly harsh on the use of drugs. We will be entering high security areas where even pseudoephedrine (for sinusitis) may be detected in small quantities by airport security.

24 Recreation and Sleep

Relaxation is vital for health and sporting success, as is sound sleep. Avoid excess coffee and alcohol to preserve a regular sleep pattern. Strive to stay awake until dark. Be sure to be out at midday briefly to readjust your biorhythms. Be sure to close your blinds or curtains to gain a full night of sleep.

25 Blood Tests

These can be arranged through the Games health services, if they are informed with plenty notice .

26 Diabetes Mellitus (DM)

DM is common. Ensure that you carry sufficient medication and that your team members are aware of your condition. You should inform the airline you need to carry insulin injection onto the flight. A letter from your physician is highly recommended.

27 Alcohol

Consumption of excess alcohol is dangerous and can poison organs, cause confusion and falls and MOST importantly alcohol depresses judgement centres in the brain. Under the influence of alcohol the athlete may become involved in fights or illegal activities.

28 Vaccinations

All live vaccines, including the Yellow Fever Vaccine, should be avoided after transplant.

During the Games, participants can be vaccinated against tetanus should they injure themselves. Those who wish to travel pre or post the Games should ensure that their tetanus toxoid vaccinations are up to date. **If entering Brazil after the Games, you may need a yellow fever exemption certificate. If travelling to malaria areas, seek information on prophylaxis before travelling to the Games.**

29 Medical alert bracelet and medical information card

It is necessary at all times to wear a medical alert bracelet if the athlete has a serious illness (diabetics) and the provided medical information card must be carried in the identification/accreditation card pouch.

30 Misfortune and misadventure

In anticipation of difficulties, it is recommended that a list of telephone numbers and emergency responses be carried with your ID/accreditation at all times.

31 Clinical Research

Participation in clinical research is worth your consideration. If you are comfortable with participating, please sign the consent Form included on MF2.

32 Anticoagulants

Athletes who are on anticoagulants (Warfarin Clexane or other anticoagulants) are advised to be extremely vigilant in supervising their therapy. Participation in the games has the effect of either increasing or decreasing clotting.

33 Suggestions and Advice

If you wish to contribute to the conduct of the games or to the research in recipient athletes please advise the Chairman of the medical committee at wtgf@wtgf.org

34 General Waiver

The LOC requires every person who registers to complete the General Waiver document by signing and dating it and forward to your Team Manager, no later than the 15th July 2015.

Should you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to consult your Team Manager or ultimately the WTG2015 LOC. You can also email: wtgf@wtgf.org

Telephone: 00441962832560 *(Please take time differences into account when phoning)*
or any of the undersigned.

SUMMARY

The supporting staff of the World Transplant Games wishes you success in your preparation for the Games. Every effort will be made to ensure that you have a safe and successful experience participating in the 2013 Games. Any documentation that the team member requires in support of his or her health care should be carried at all times. On occasion it may be necessary to refer the athlete to the local medical services. Appropriate documentation should be available on such occasions. Preparation is necessary for both your competition and your health.

We thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Lynne Holt

Chairman WTGF Medical Committee

Dr. Guillermo Bortman

LOC Medical Officer