



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

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## **The Dreadnought Medical Service, St Thomas' Hospital, London**

**Notice to all Shipowners, Employers, Manning Agents, Masters and Seafarers and  
Skippers and Crews of Fishing Vessels**

*This notice replaces MIN 216.*

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### **PLEASE NOTE:-**

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel - and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

### **Summary**

- This Marine Guidance Note provides information on the Dreadnought Medical Service, available for seafarers through the medical services at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London.
- It includes a referral form (Annex A) which may be used by a seafarer's General Practitioner or company doctor to arrange referral to the Dreadnought Medical Service

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Dreadnought Medical Service is a facility offering priority medical treatment to eligible seafarers through the medical services of the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London. While there are no longer dedicated wards within the hospital, services are available to offer treatment for a full range of medical conditions. The service aims to provide treatment in a shorter time scale than may normally be offered in a seafarer's local NHS hospital, although this cannot be guaranteed. The purpose is to enable serving seafarers to return to work at sea as soon as possible. This MGN describes the services and the referral process.

## **2. Eligibility for priority medical treatment and services available**

2.1 Active seafarers who are resident in the UK, including fishing vessel personnel, pilots, cadets, those in the towage industry and shipping company shore staff essential to the function of the fleet are all eligible to be considered for elective priority treatment through the Dreadnought Service. Seafarers' dependents may also be eligible where the illness of a seafarer's spouse or child is such as to cause the seafarer grave concern. Retired seafarers will be considered but will not normally be entitled to receive priority treatment.

The service has a designated Administrator, who should be contacted for advice in the case of any query about eligibility or other information (see below for details).

2.2 A wide range of medical and surgical services is available. In addition to medical treatments, dental treatment can also be provided, a “one-stop” hernia service is available and in certain circumstances, female seafarers can have access to the hospital’s gynaecological services. Although cardiac surgery is included, there is no priority given to seafarers. As the service operates within the National Health Service, there is no charge for UK resident seafarers.

### **3. Location**

3.1 St Thomas’ is conveniently located near Waterloo Station in Central London and can easily be reached by bus or underground. Guy’s Hospital is located adjacent to London Bridge Station. Assistance with transport and travel costs may be available through the hospital’s patient transport service or in certain cases, the Seamen’s Hospital Society (contact telephone: 020 8858 3696). A limited amount of accommodation is available nearby for close relatives, if required, for which there is a moderate charge.

### **4. Referral Procedure**

4.1 There is a standard referral form which can be completed by the seafarer’s General Practitioner or Company doctor; a copy is attached at Annex A. This may be photocopied as necessary. The completed form should be sent to the Dreadnought Administrator at the address below.

### **5. Dreadnought Medical Service contact details**

Any enquiries about the Dreadnought Medical Service should be addressed to :

Dreadnought Medical Service Administrator  
Dreadnought Medical Service  
St Thomas’ Hospital  
London SE1 7EH

*Telephone: 020 7188 2052*

*Fax: 020 7188 2051*

## More Information

Medical Administration Team, Seafarer Safety and Health Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/09  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9247  
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9251  
e-mail: Seafarer.S&H@mca.gov.uk

General Inquiries: infoline@mca.gov.uk

MCA Website Address: [www.mca.gov.uk](http://www.mca.gov.uk)

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**Dreadnought Medical Service Referral Information Form: On completion this should be faxed to the Dreadnought Administrator on 020 7188 2051 or posted to: Dreadnought Medical Services, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EH. A standard letter of referral from your GP or other medical provider MUST accompany this form.**

<b>SECTION A: To be completed by the seafarer:</b>		
Name:	Telephone number:	
Date of birth:		
Occupation: details of job (e.g. fisherman, deck, engineering etc. If self-employed, please state so. If retired, state nature of previous employment.)	Address:	
Date last worked at sea:		
Seafarer's employer (Please state if self-employed):	<b>Have you been signed off on compassionate grounds?</b> YES NO	
	If so, by whom?:	
<b>SECTION B: To be completed by the patient:</b>		
Name:	Relationship to seafarer:	
Date of birth:		
Name, address and telephone number of general practitioner:	Name and address of local hospital:	
Have you been referred to Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust before? <b>YES NO</b> (Give hospital number, if known.)	If this referral is for a dependent, please state the effect of the medical condition on the seafarer's ability to go to sea.	
Dates available for appointment within next 6 months:	Dates <b>not</b> available for appointment within next 6 months:	
<b>Signed by seafarer:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	
<b>SECTION C: To be completed by GP or Approved/Company Doctor:</b>		
1. Is the patient is required to hold a Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) medical certificate (form ENG 1)? <b>(See note 1)</b> <b>YES NO</b>		
2. Has the patient been referred to another hospital? <b>YES NO</b> If yes, please provide a copy of the last clinical letter. This may avoid the need for a pre-admission visit.		
3. Please rate this patient as: (1) clinically urgent, (2) soon, (3) routine. If urgent, please indicate reason for urgency		
Signed by clinician:	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Practice stamp:</b>

Notes:

1. **Possession of a valid ENG 1 certificate, stating that a seafarer is fit for the duties of his or her grade is essential before that seafarer can join a ship.**
2. **Accommodation is available through the Dreadnought if required, and can be booked in advance, once an appointment is confirmed.**