Medical and Evacuation Procedures Peru 2027

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1. Introduction

Medical screening

As with all expeditions careful planning is essential to ensure that all individuals enjoy a safe successful trip. Some members of the expedition team (including all volunteers and staff) may have significant pre- existing health problems or disabilities, which in the field, could potentially lead to problems.

Medical questionnaire- All participants will be required to enter their medical details onto the Operation Wallacea data portal. Details of how to log on are sent out upon receiving the booking from the participant. The data is stored securely and is initially only available to certain Operation Wallacea staff members, and, for groups of school students, the teacher leading the group.

Screening - All medical forms are assessed by Operation Wallacea. The country manager may seek to contact the participant to gather further information, which they would then enter on to the portal. Following the initial screening by the country manager, the details are then passed to the on-site medic. He or she can ask for further information and will have an opportunity to discuss any issues of concern at a medical meeting (between the expedition medics and Operation Wallacea staff) held approximately 3 months prior to the expedition. The team of medics will discuss any potential medical issues, advise anyone if a further consultation with a medic is required and will also suggest additions to the medical kits in light of any pre- existing health problems highlighted.

Insurance - Operation Wallacea requires all participants to purchase medical and travel insurance for their expedition. Details of these are provided in advance of their expedition so they are available to operational staff in the event they should be required. Operation Wallacea evacuation procedures are designed so that there is no delay waiting on insurers before providing care thus expediting the administrative processes behind organising an evacuation.

Roles in the event of an emergency

Carefully planned evacuation protocols are in place at the expedition sites in Peru. All staff will have training on the evacuation procedures and protocols.

Once a major incident leading to an evacuation is identified the Senior Scientist (Dr Richard Bodmer) will take overall control and will decide the level of emergency evacuation required for the patient. These should be classified as Emergency or High Priority (requiring the fastest possible transfer, usually by speedboat from the research site in the Lower Yarapa River to Omaguas and overland to Iquitos) or Medium Priority (requiring the patient to be moved as quickly as possible back to the research ship for treatment).

In all Emergency or High Priority cases where a patient is being transferred to medical facilities they should be accompanied by the relevant Medical Officer or someone appointed by the medical officer as fit to accompany the patients. The absence of the Medical Officer from the site whilst the patient is accompanied to the hospital will require the suspension of all high risk activities at the site until the Medical Officer is back on site. In the case of a Medium

Priority evacuation (e.g. transfer to a hospital for a confirmatory X- ray) another staff member other than the Medical Officer may be nominated to accompany the patient.

2. Medical facilities in country

Facilities in Nauta

There is a clinic in Nauta with a doctor where patients who cannot be treated on the research ships or do not require emergency evacuation to the hospital in Iquitos can receive attention.

Facilities in Iquitos:

Clinica Adventista Ana Stahl

Address: Av. La Marina N.° 285, Iquitos, Maynas, Loreto, Perú
Website: http://www.clinicaanastahl.org.pe/
Director: Dra. Eliana Berrios Macedonio

UTM: 693,668E: 9584,583N
Lat/Long: -3.741182, -73.241065

Central Tel: +51 65-252 535
Ask for the hospital section if calling after hours, as the telephone will be answered by security.

Emergency Tel: +51 (65) 252-518
Email address: informes@clinicanastahl.org.pe

This is the best private hospital in Iquitos with a large group of leading specialists capable of carrying out a wide range of major surgeries and procedures. Facilities include operating theatres, X-ray, body scanner and magnetic resonance equipment, laboratories, a diagnostic centre, etc. This hospital is likely to provide suitable facilities for most emergencies.

Facilities on the research ships

There is always a qualified Western medic or experienced expedition nurse on the project and extensive medical supplies to treat most common conditions.

Evacuation Facilities

In the event of an emergency priority the patient would be evacuated by speedboat (preferred route).

3. Medical cover at each site

The 2027 projects are run from research boats on the Lower Yarapa River. The research boats will be in clusters of two or more boats at the site, and there will be either a nurse or Western medic on board one of the boats in each cluster.

4. Evacuation procedures

Once a High Priority or Emergency evacuation is called then the Senior Scientist takes control of the evacuation. Speedboats would be dispatched from the research ships to meet with the patient and would then travel downriver to Omaguas (1hour journey). In the worst case scenario, a patient would require evacuation from one of the remote transects and this would require additional time up to 2 hours plus the time to carry out the patient by stretcher.

Once the boats are dispatched the Senior Scientist would call the hospital in Iquitos and ensure an ambulance met the returning speedboats at Omaguas. It would then be a 1.5-2hour transfer by ambulance to Iquitos. The situation coordinator should also contact the Opwall Office to explain the situation, for the evacuation including the actions being taken and the state of the patient. (S)he is also responsible for ensuring that all relevant Peruvian staff are aware of the ongoing emergency and follow up actions.

5. Reporting and logging

During evacuations, it is crucial that a log is kept by the Opwall Peru Country Manager detailing times, personnel involved and all relevant details of each step of the evacuation process. A full safety assessment must be carried out after all evacuations and if a similar incident is likely all activities must be stopped until the situation has been rectified.

The Opwall Peru Country Manager will collate the reports of all medical treatment and evacuations and will submit the final report to the UK office. The Country Manager will also submit the costs and report to Opwall office for re-imbursement of costs.

6. Mass evacuations and disaster management

There is the possibility, albeit incredibly small, that a large-scale incident could occur which would require a large number of Operation Wallacea volunteers and staff being repatriated. Such incidents could include political unrest, natural disaster, and terrorist attacks. These incidents can be broken into two types, those with prior warning and those without.

Major incident with prior warning

Some major incidents come with a degree of prior warning. A good example of this is political unrest resulting in violence, which would have a build-up period. We constantly monitor the political situation of the area we work in and if our experienced field operatives decide that the political situation has become unsafe, they would order a full evacuation. In such an incident the Opwall Peru Country Manager would liaise with the Opwall office and relevant embassies to agree the best route for repatriation.

Major incident with no prior warning

Some incidents, such as a terrorist attack or natural disaster, would have no prior warning. In cases such as these the field staff would get all volunteers and staff to a place, they deemed safe by which ever means they decide best. From here the Opwall would contact the volunteers' embassies to coordinate an evacuation strategy. The details of such an evacuation would vary dramatically depending on the situation and as such it is impossible to produce more detailed procedures than this.

7. Contact numbers

The first port of call should always be the Opwall HQ in the UK, on +44 1790 763 194. They will always have an accurate and up to date list of all the contact numbers for Peru expeditions and are the quickest way to get a message out to site. If needed, they can also provide you with the phone numbers of the contacts in Peru.