



Medical and Evacuation Procedures

New Zealand 2021

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Introduction

Medical screening

As with all expeditions careful planning is essential to ensure that all individuals enjoy a safe successful field course. Some members of the field course 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 and the Aspiring Biodiversity Trust. The course 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 course manager, the details are then passed to the on-site first aid trained staff member. He or she can ask for further information and will have an opportunity to discuss any issues of concern and will also suggest additions to the medical kits in light of any pre-existing health problems highlighted.

Insurance – Full medical and evacuation procedures are available to any relevant insurers in order to expedite the any evacuations.

Roles in the event of an Emergency

Carefully planned evacuation protocols are in place in all of the sites in New Zealand. All staff will have training on the evacuation procedures and protocols.

Once a major incident leading to an evacuation is identified the Course Manager will take overall control and will decide the level of emergency evacuation required for the patient. These are classified as either: Medium Priority, High Priority or Emergency.

Medium Priority – Cases in which the patient is in no immediate danger but the onsite facilities are unable to cope were their condition to deteriorate. An example of this would be dehydration due to sickness. This requires the patient to be moved as quickly as possible without the need to hire special vehicles or boats to the nearest appropriate suitable facilities.

High Priority – Cases where the patient's health is at risk if immediate action is not taken. An example of this is a broken bone. This requires transportation, via specially arranged vehicles to medical facilities.

Emergency Priority – Cases requiring the fastest possible transfer.

In the case of an Evacuation, the Course Manager will be responsible for contacting the insurance company.

Medical Facilities in Country

Camps

There are first aid trained staff available at the course site to help with minor medical issues and to assist with evacuations to local medical facilities if needed.

Facilities in Makarora, ABT

Suitable for medium, high and emergency priority evacuations from the field course site

Wanaka Medical Centre

Address: 23 Cardrona Valley Road, Wanaka 9305, New Zealand

Tel: +64 3-443 0710

Email: admin@wanakamedical.co.nz , Website: <https://www.wanakamedical.co.nz/>

Aspiring Medical Centre

Address: Wanaka Lakes Health Centre, 23 Cardrona Valley Road, Wanaka 9305, New Zealand

Tel: +64 3-443 0725

Email: office@aspiringmedical.co.nz , Website: <https://www.aspiringmedical.co.nz/>

Lakes District Hospital – Queenstown Hospital Services

Address: 20 Douglas Street, Frankton, Queenstown 9300, New Zealand

Tel: +64 3-441 0015

Email: contactus@southerndhb.govt.nz , Website: healthpoint.co.nz/public/community/lakes-district-hospital-queenstown-hospital/

Lake District Hospital is a medium (25 beds) private hospital. The hospital is fully equipped to deal with all kinds of emergencies, and has state of the art diagnostic equipment, including MRI scanners, ultrasound and X-ray, a pharmacy, laboratory for clinical analysis, and a surgery for minor procedures.

Helicopter Support for evacuations

Helicopter Evacuations are available from the site. In the event of an accident, emergency services will be contacted immediately and the appropriate action will be taken, including helicopter pick up where applicable.

Communications

Site comms

At the camp there is wifi connection and a landline telephone.

During activities an Epirb and / or Garmin Inreach, handheld radios and safety whistle are used. There will be no lone working and there will be a signing in and out board at base camp.

Transfers

All bus and vehicle transfers have cell phones with the drivers.

Evacuations from Field Sites

Camps and survey sites

Evacuation from site is by vehicle to Lake District Hospital is 2 hours for medium and high evacuations.

Reporting and Logging

During evacuations it is crucial that a log is kept by the Course 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 Course Manager will collate the reports of all medical treatment and evacuations and will submit the final report to the UK office. The Course Manager will also submit the costs and report to the insurance company for re-imburement of costs if required.

Mass Evacuations and Disaster Management

The most likely scenario is warning of an impending earthquake. Earthquakes can occur in this area and New Zealand has an excellent warning system in place. In the event that an evacuation is required, the assembly point will be either the Top Lodge or car parking area depending on the incident. From this point, emergency services will be consulted to ensure best practice is kept.