

Transport of medical patient by aircraft is the quickest and convenient way in most cases as it has comparative advantages in smoothness, with less vibration and motion.

However, long flight time, changes in cabin pressure and weather condition may sometimes adversely affect passenger's medical condition. For this reason, air travel may not be suitable for all passengers (patients).

Aircraft usually cruises at an altitude of 9,000-12,000 meters (30,000-40,000 feet) at a speed of 900km/h(560mi/h) which is almost the speed of sound. At high altitude and where barometric pressure is much lower than on ground, aircraft cabin is mechanically pressurized during the flight. However, significant changes in cabin pressure can occur 15-30 minutes after take-off and before landing.

Change of Air Pressure in Aircraft Cabin

As air pressure becomes lower in aircraft cabin, gases inside of the human body expand. These expanded gases not discharged from the body may put pressure on wounds or internal organs possibly cause pain or difficulties in breathing.

Change of Oxygen Concentrations in Aircraft Cabin

Respiratory organs, the heart, blood vessels in the brain and serious anemia can all be adversely affected by low oxygen concentrations. Moreover, this may also affect expectant mothers in the final stage of pregnancy and newborn babies.

For these reasons, passenger with any of the following conditions will be requested to prepare a medical certificate (MEDIF) and submit when making a reservation.

1. Passenger whose medical condition needs oxygen supply (inhalation), use of medical equipment/instruments, and any medical treatment in cabin
2. Passenger with serious injuries or disease(s)
3. Passenger who falls under any category listed on the "Reference - Unfit Conditions for Air Travel".
4. Other than above, passenger whose fitness for air travel is in doubt, as evidence by recent instability, treatment or surgery

Preparation of Medical Information Form (MEDIF)

MEDIF must be prepared and issued within 14 days, including the day of departure. For return flight in a roundtrip itinerary, the date of return flight may exceed 14 days if it states "Fit to Travel" in the appropriate box of MEDIF.

* However, our staff may ask the following passengers to submit a new MEDIF in order to reconfirm the fitness for air travel.

1. Patients or injured persons in emergency medical transportation
2. Passenger in unstable conditions with disease(s) of the heart, respiratory organs, brain nerve or mental nerve

* For pregnant woman whose confinement may be expected in less than 28 days, MEDIF must be prepared and issued within 7 days, including the day of departure.

For Passengers: Please prepare "SPECIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST" and submit it upon making reservation.

For Physician: Please answer all the questions on MEDIF. Please determine the passenger's (patient's) fitness for air travel by taking the whole itinerary into consideration. We would also appreciate any comments about the passenger's current condition and any suggestions for the proposed travel in the lower remarks space.

Person who are suffering and/or suspected of having contagious disease specified in applicable laws and/or acute infections which may infect other passengers in flight shall not be accepted on STARFLYER flights.

Persons under the following conditions are generally considered unfit for air travel. However, if the medical conditions or the state of health of the person is considered stable and the physician certifies the person as "Fit to Travel" with the prognosis, passenger may be accepted, thus please consult with us.

1. Patients with severe disease such as Serious heart failure, Cyanotic heart disease, Unstable angina and Acute myocardial infarction
(Usually unfit for air travel within 6 weeks from the crisis)
2. Patients with severe respiratory disease such as Severe respiratory failure, Severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and Pneumothorax whose symptoms are seen recently and whose patient's lungs are not fully inflated
3. Patients repeating Hemoptysis
4. Patients with apoplexy in acute phase (Usually unfit for air travel within 4 weeks after crisis)
5. Patients who have residual air in his/her central nervous system
6. Patients with lesions resulted in increased intracranial pressure, fracture of the skull
7. Patients with severe anemia
8. Patients with lesions which may cause hematemesis, melena and/or intestinal obstruction
9. Patients with severe otitis media
10. Patients who have not completely recovered from surgery of head, chest or abdomen
11. Patients with alcoholism or drug addiction in unstable conditions
12. Newborn babies within the first 7 days of birth
13. Expectant mothers whose confinement may be expected within 28 days
 - ※ Escort by a physician will be required if travelling by aircraft within 14 days of the expected confinement for international flights and 7 days for domestic flights.

