Medicals and Medication — study guide

A sick or injured seafarer affects the whole ship, not just themselves. This guide covers medical stores, medication disclosure and the order of action in an emergency.[1]

Impact on the vessel

Any illness or accident will have an immediate effect on the efficient running of the vessel — the crew is small and there is no hospital on the doorstep.

What ships must carry

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) stipulate that all ships should have a **medicine chest**, **medical equipment** and a **medical guide** on board.

Medication

Seafarers may be asked to declare their medication to the Master every time they join the ship. Accident investigation reports have highlighted the **side effects of medication** as a contributing factor in incidents, so disclosure matters for safety, not just paperwork.

Order of action in an emergency

The correct order of actions is: **1)** assess the scene and any dangers; **2)** assess the casualty; **3)** raise the alarm; **4)** stabilise the casualty; **5)** clear up and log the incident afterwards.

Key facts to remember

- Illness or accident immediately affects the running of the vessel.
- Ships must carry a medicine chest, medical equipment and a medical guide (ILO/MLC).
- Declare medication to the Master on joining; side effects are a known accident factor.
- Emergency order: assess scene/dangers → assess casualty → raise alarm → stabilise → clear up and log.

Sources

1. Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (as amended) — Regulation 4.1 (medical care on board and on shore), with the ILO/WHO International Medical Guide for Ships.

© 2026 maritimetest.com · free study guide