

Travelling team physician - International regulations regarding temporary medical practice, medication import and prescription practice

General: Information on international recognition of medical degrees can be obtained from International Medical Education Directory published by the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research's (FAIMER) at: <http://www.faimer.org/resources/imed.html>

| Country | Temporary licensing | Medication import | Prescription |
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| Australia | No provisions on temporary licensing in place. | <p>Sporting teams will need to compile a list of the medicinal products they intend to bring with them. Find full information on the below : http://www.tga.gov.au/consumers/travellers-entering.htm#sporting</p> <p>Visiting sporting teams need to apply for permission to bring into Australia medicinal products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ that contain substances that are controlled, or ○ that are injections containing a substance of human or animal origin (except insulin - insulin is allowed) <p>Preparations should be made well in advance of the visit. For information and application forms contact TMU@health.gov.au.</p> <p>In addition, the visiting sporting team must comply with the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The medicines must not be supplied (sold/given to) anyone who is not an official member of the visiting sporting team. ○ The medicines must not be used in the treatment of anyone who is not an official member of visiting sporting team. ○ Any unused medicines MUST be destroyed or taken out of Australia on departure. ○ An official member of the visiting sporting team MUST be responsible for the control and custody of the medicines at all times while the sporting team is in Australia. ○ If an individual sporting team member wishes to bring a medicine into Australia for their own personal use, the general rules for bringing medicines for personal use apply. <p>An official member of the visiting sporting team must maintain</p> | No provisions in place - prescription by foreign doctor will not be accepted. |

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| | | <p>control of the medicines at all times, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a list in English of the quantity and type of the medicines brought into Australia, including in the list the name and strength of the active ingredient in each medicinal product, and • maintain a record of the use of the medicines while the sporting team is in Australia, and • produce the list or record for inspection at the request of a Customs officer or other authorized officer <p>There are special arrangements in place for Olympic sporting teams - contact your National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee or the Therapeutic Goods Administration for information about these special arrangements.</p> | |
| <p>Austria</p> | <p>In order to be authorized to treat athletes if their team in Austria, foreign team physicians must ask for a temporary license which will be issued by the Regional Medical Association and allows the Team Physicians to provide the usual level of service to his teams. It must be said that each Regional Medical Association may have slightly different regulations!</p> <p>In order to be able to do so, the Team Physicians must fill in a Registration Form and send it to Austrian Medical Association (Regional Branch), including all required additional documents. Only complete documents will be considered.</p> <p>Registered Team Physicians are entitled to perform the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use verified and authorised medication from the team medication pool. - Treat athletes/team officials from their own team <p>Teams who bring their own healthcare professionals should consider purchasing their own medical malpractice insurance. If healthcare professionals have their own</p> | <p>The import of medical devices and medication to Austria is governed by Austrian law. The Austrian Ministry of Health can issue exceptional regulations for team physicians regarding the import of medication that is not approved for use in Austria.</p> <p>The import of medication must be carried out in accordance with Austrian law. Addictive drugs, including narcotics and psychotropics, are generally prohibited and may not be imported to Austria. A team physician may bring his own medication, provided this medication does not contain any substances controlled in Austria. Medication may be brought to Austria in quantities not exceeding three months' supply without prior approval from the Austrian Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Medication imported to Austria by team members other than the team physician must be quantitatively calculated based on usual personal usage during the stay in Austria. This requires supporting documents, such as a doctor's letter or a copy of the medical prescription, as proof that the medicine is for personal use. Unused medication must be declared to Austrian customs and exported at the end of the stay. Any medication which, according to the Austrian Regulation on Addictive Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, contains substances included on the List of</p> | |

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| | <p>medical malpractice insurance, they should make sure that this insurance is valid for treatment administered in Austria.</p> | <p>Authorised Medication with Controlled Active Agents must be listed on the Letter of Authorisation.</p> <p>Team Physicians must list all medical devices they intend to bring to Austria using the Letter of Authorisation contained in Appendix B.</p> <p>Medical devices and corresponding equipment imported to Austria must be declared to Austrian customs and exported at the end of the Games.</p> | |
| Brazil | <p>When an international sports event takes place, the Medical Director of the National or Regional Organizing Committee needs to request the Regional Council of Medicine at least 30 (thirty) days before the event to specifically authorize the team physicians involved. The governing institution of medical professions in Brazil is the Federal Council of Medicine with Regional Councils of Medicine in each state of Brazil and all physicians must be registered in the Regional Councils to be allowed to practice. The request must include a list of the foreign medical team with a certified copy of each physician's diploma in his/her country of origin. The team physician will be allowed to deliver medical assistance only to the members of his/her delegation (to other delegations exclusively in case of an emergency). A team physician may receive authorization to deliver medical assistance to a maximum two delegations.</p> | <p>The team physician may import medications for the use of his/her delegation after submitting a list with all items to Anvisa, the National Agency of Sanitary Surveillance linked to the Ministry of Health. Anvisa controls all sanitary products and services (national or imported) in Brazil (www.anvisa.gov.br). Medication may exclusively be used at the venues of the competition.</p> | <p>Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication.</p> |
| Canada | <p>The practice of the medical profession is regulated in Canada and the requirements to practice are set by each provincial and territorial medical regulatory authority. Temporary licensing is required and depending on where the sports event takes place, the appropriate provincial/territorial medical regulatory authority has to be contacted for assistance. A list of all authorities can be found here: http://www.cicic.ca/en/professions.aspx?sortcode=2.19.21&prof=3112</p> <p>Licensing requirements include a completed medical degree and a current active license. The medical degree has to be</p> | <p>Health Canada works in partnership with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to control the importation of medical devices and pharmaceutical products. The Government of Canada requires that team physicians submit an application listing all health products and medical devices (including the contents of team physicians' bags) that will be imported temporarily into Canada to assess the admissibility and conditions that may apply to any regulated items on the list. Amounts must be "reasonable" as related to the number of athletes under their care and based on a 90-day supply. Importation of substances falling under the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> (such as narcotics, controlled drugs) is</p> | <p>Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication.</p> |

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| | <p>from a recognized medical school with a curriculum meeting Canadian credentials in number of hours and inclusion of mandatory rotations. The medical license must be current, active and without restrictions or conditions. These credentials are to be submitted to the respective provincial authorities. An overview of the process of credential evaluation with the respective authorities is available from: http://www.cicic.ca/413/assessment-of-credentials-for-employment.canada</p> <p>An overview of the services, fees and processing times for credential evaluation by different agencies in the provinces is available from: http://www.cicic.ca/504/comparative-chart.canada</p> | <p>prohibited, except with an exemption issued by Health Canada. Applications must be submitted at least 60 days before the medications enter Canada. Failure to obtain authorization prior to goods entering Canada may result in refusal of entry or significant delay.</p> | |
| Cyprus | <p>Physicians accompanying athletes / teams from an EU country have to inform the Cyprus Medical Council (CMC) in due advance. The CMC will grant him a temporary licence and register him on a special registration list of EU physicians. If the physician is not an EU citizen, he is not allowed to practice in Cyprus and the team must find a local physician to co-operate with the team physician during the stay of the team in Cyprus.</p> <p>Cyprus Medical Council, Ministry of Health; 1448 Nicosia, Cyprus; Tel: +35722605471; Fax: +35722770738/ +35722604090; medicalcouncil@moh.gov.cy</p> | <p>EU physicians may import medication for their athletes' / team's use.</p> | <p>Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication.</p> |
| France | <p>A physician in a member country of the European Union or party to an agreement in the European Economic Area, who is established and legally able to practice the profession in a State (member or party), can practice in France, on a temporary or occasional basis without being registered as a physician in France.</p> <p>Before being able to practice as a physician in France, a declaration and supporting documents must be submitted. The list of required documents is established by order of the Ministry of Health. While qualifications are not given recognition in this process, the professional qualifications of the provider are verified before being allowed to practice.</p> | | <p>Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication.</p> |

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| | <p>The form required to be submitted before being allowed to practice is available on the internet: http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=6BDE13943ED69796322068EF0EDDAFD4.tpdjo14v_2?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000021776754&dateTexte=20130501</p> | | |
| Germany | <p>Foreign physicians who immigrate to Germany to provide medical care to their athletes in the country require a license to practice. For this purpose, they need to apply for a temporary license to practice according to Art. 10 of the German Federal Medical Practitioners Act (BÄO). According to Art. 12.3 BÄO, this license has to be requested from the respective administrative authority of the federal state where the physician will practice / the event takes place.</p> <p>An overview (in German...) of the authorities in the different federal states in Germany can be found here: http://anabin.kmk.org/no_cache/filter/anerkennungs-und-beratungsstellen-in-deutschland.html . These authorities also provide information on the requirements for the application. Based on EU law (Guideline 2005/36/EG on the recognition of professional qualifications) EU, EWR and Swiss citizens, who are licensed to practice in these countries, are allowed to temporarily practice in Germany without having to apply for a temporary license. They do however need to inform the respective authority in advance of their undertaking (addresses see above).</p> | <p>Medicine may generally be imported free of all charges in “appropriate amounts”, referring to a three-month supply. As long as no narcotic drugs are contained in the shipment, no import permit is required. This exemption does include sporting events where the team physician may bring a three-month supply for each athlete free of charge.</p> <p>Medicine that is intended for athletes entering from non-EU countries to take part in international sporting events brought by a team physician is exempted from import fees. However, if the value of the medication exceeds 1’000 EUR, a hand-written or electronic import declaration is required. The written version refers to the Single Administrative Document (SAD), form 0737, available online but only in German (https://www.einfuhr.internetzollanmeldung.de/).</p> <p>The import of substances listed on the WADA Prohibited List is prohibited.</p> <p>A permit is needed for the import of medication containing narcotic drugs. The form is available online (http://www.bfarm.de/EN/FederalOpium Agency/narcoticDrugs/form/form-node-en.html)</p> | <p>Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication.</p> |
| Greece | <p>No temporary licensing is required for team physicians.</p> | <p>No declaration of imported medication is required.</p> | <p>Foreign physicians cannot write prescriptions for medications.</p> |
| Hong Kong | <p>Travelling team physicians needed to be in possession of a medical degree and a license to practice in the country of origin. No temporary license is required for team physicians attending to their athletes and delegation, but they are not allowed to have medical practice in the hospitals/clinics in</p> | <p>A list of all medication brought to the country should be produced upon customs clearance. Medicine and medical devices accompanying the foreign medical contingents must be utilized only in the treatment of their respective athletes / teams. Narcotics or other dangerous drugs is prohibited, except with an exemption</p> | <p>Foreign physicians cannot write prescriptions for medications.</p> |

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| | Hong Kong. | issued by Department of Health, Hong Kong. | |
| Iran | At regular sport events, no temporary license is required for team physicians attending to their athletes and delegation. But in huge sport events like Games (e.g. Islamic Solidarity Games), the medical commission of the Organizing Committee request the education certificates of physicians and issue a temporary license for the period of games. | A list of all medications brought to the country should be produced upon customs clearance. | Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication. |
| Ireland | There is a temporary license available for EU Medical Practitioners, called "Temporary Registration for Visiting EEA Practitioners". Eligible applicants need to: be an EU citizen, be registered under General Registration with another EU member state, be in good standing with that EU registration authority, and have a Primary Medical Degree from either a EU medical school or a medical school outside EU (as long as it is recognised by WHO). This is a very specific type of registration for doctors for a maximum of 30 days / year, and applicants need a letter from their employer stating the services they will provide, where they will be based, and the exact dates they will provide medical care. That type of registration covers anyone who is providing medical care at rally events for example, or for emergency services. Anybody who would be spending more than 30 days / year in the country would have to hold General or Specialist Registration with the Irish Medical Council. For any queries, please contact the Irish Medical Council for up-to-date information on registration: www.medicalcouncil.ie | Please refer to the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) or the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) for further advice. www.imb.ie ; www.dohc.ie | Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication. |
| Italy | The obtaining of the license to practice is usually facilitated by the LOC of the sports event who needs to be provided with copies of the original certificates to act accordingly (?). | | |
| Japan | No temporary license is required for team physicians attending to their athletes and delegation. | No declaration of imported medication required as long as the amount is within reasonable limits considering the number of athletes and delegation. The only exception is for import from Korea DPR which is however not limited to medications but due to the absence of an agreement on governmental level for any import of goods. | Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication. |

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| <p>Netherlands</p> | <p>Physicians from the EER (European Economic Area) and Switzerland can practice in the health care system in the Netherlands, but they have to apply for a BIG-registration in the Netherlands (costs 80 Euro). Their certification has to meet certain standards and they have to be licensed to practice in their home country. For further information, see: http://knmg.artsennet.nl/Diensten/loopbaanbureau/Buitenlands-geplomeerden/Procedures.htm</p> <p>Information from Health Care Inspectorate: A foreign certified health care professional from an EEA Member State has the possibility of a limited registration in the BIG register. A limited registration is actually a simplified process. Actually, a person is not required to register in the BIG register, but one must notify them and have a number of documents available, including a certification that one has a license to practice in another Member State.</p> <p>The limited registration is in principle intended for health care, for example in the context of a temporary employment in the Netherlands. The situation described in the question is of a different nature, because this doctor treats only its own residents. This is also the case with events like the Olympic Games, where sports physicians come in large numbers with their teams and the doctors treat their own team only. This will depend, for example how long the sports physician will be here, and if only their own team is treated and how often this will be the case. The doctor will need to contact the Big registry regarding this situation. BIG-information line: 0900-89 98 225 (€ 0.10 per minute) / info@bigregister.nl</p> | <p>If an individual patient needs to take opiates to another country, he/she has to adhere to the regulations of that country:</p> <p>http://www.farmatec.nl/geneesmiddelen/opiaten/geneesmiddelenmeeopreis/default.aspx</p> <p>Information from Health Care Inspectorate: According to the Medicine Act it is not allowed to bring drugs in from abroad. This is reflected in art 40 paragraph 2 (bringing unregistered drugs to Dutch territory). For the described situation there is no special provision in the legislation.</p> | |
| <p>Nigeria</p> | <p>Foreign physicians who immigrate to Nigeria to provide medical care to their athletes in the country require a license to practice. For this purpose, they need to apply for a</p> | | <p>Foreign physicians may not write</p> |

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| | temporary license to practice to the Ministry of Health. | | prescriptions for medication. |
| Norway | <p>Norway requires all physicians who wish to practice medicine in Norway to have a physician's license that has been issued by The Directory of Health (Helsedirektoratet), SAK office. This includes temporary medical licenses for team physicians to practice on national athletes in a team which have been issued previously, for example for the Olympic Winter Games. Application forms can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.sak.no/sites/SAK/slik-soker-du/Sider/default.aspx#.URSfq375WE0</p> | <p>There is currently no legislation specifically referring to a physician's right to import medication. All texts refer to an individual patient's rights. The import of non-narcotic medications is allowed if it is considered to be adequate for personal use – 3 months supply from non-EEA countries, 12 months supply from EEA countries and Switzerland (EEA = EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway).</p> <p>Medications that contain narcotic substances must be declared at customs and will normally be permitted if a patient has a Schengen Medical Certificate. Physicians importing narcotics will be evaluated on an individual basis, but the practice is not recommended and athletes requiring narcotics should import those themselves.</p> | <p>Prescriptions will not be accepted by a pharmacy unless the physician has an approved (temporary) medical license.</p> |
| Portugal | Joao to complete | | |
| Russia | <p>Travelling team physicians, accompanying teams to a sport event, are exempted from the usual licensing procedure. Right to practice is given to them "by default", under article 39.4 of Federal Law #329-FZ amended in 2012. The exact wording is as follows: "During the period of the holding of official physical of sport event on the territory of the Russian Federation, foreign citizens and stateless persons who have received pharmaceutical or medical education in foreign countries and are mentioned as specialists in medicine by the foreign sport organizations can be allowed to provide medical services to the representatives of the sports organizations and to participants in the official physical or sports events of these foreign countries in the location where the event is taking place and in the place of accommodation for the representatives and participants without going through the procedure allowing them to carry out medical or pharmaceutical activities under the Laws of the Russian Federation. Persons who are mentioned as specialists in medicine by the sports organizations take responsibility in accordance with the law of the foreign countries."</p> <p>This does not apply for the field of play where the medical</p> | <p>Medication import is regulated by Resolution # 748 (2011) of the Customs Union Commission (applicable for Russia, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan). Non-commercial importation/exportation of any medications, which "foreign sport organizations" or its representatives are bringing in/out of the country for the purpose of the medical care provision during a sport event, does not require any pre-authorization or licensing. The only exclusion is opiates, psychotropic substances and its precursors, which can however be brought in/out for personal use as to be proved by appropriate medical documentation (prescription, medical report or TUE). The quantity is determined by the dosage as indicated in the prescription or the medical report, extrapolated for the period of stay in Russia. The official list of opiates, psychotropic substances and its precursors consists of more than 300 chemical substances. It is recommendable consult with the event's organizers on the medications planned to be brought in for the event in order to avoid any difficulties upon immigration.</p> <p>Customs declaration (red channel procedure) at entry/departure port should be submitted in any case.</p> | <p>Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication.</p> |

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| | services are provided under the authority of the event organizers and visiting physicians might need to agree on their involvement in delivery on these services, or this may be regulated in the event's regulations. | | |
| South Africa | <p>Travelling team physicians are subject to the regulations of the South African Medical Council. Event organizers respectively visiting teams have to apply to the Minister of Health for the accreditation of all foreign medical contingents. Foreign medical contingent relates to the medical support which will be accompanying all participating athletes / teams for an event and such accreditation would be provided on the following basis: Foreign Medical Contingents would be restricted to treating their respective teams officials and support personnel only.</p> <p>A separate application must be submitted for each foreign medical contingent participating in an event, and the following information must be detailed on such applications: a) country of origin of the athlete / team; b) full name and passport number of each member of the foreign medical contingent; c) qualification, statutory registering body, registration number and category of practice of each member of the foreign medical contingent; d) the period for which accreditation is required. Contact: Peter Fuhri, Director Disaster Medicine; fuhrip@health.gov.za</p> | <p>Event organizers respectively visiting teams have to apply to the Minister of Health for approval of medicines, scheduled substances and medical devices to be utilised by such medical contingents.</p> <p>Medicines, scheduled substances and medical devices accompanying the foreign medical contingents may be utilised only in the treatment of their respective athletes / teams. The application must detail: generic and trade names, dosage and manufacturer of the medicines, scheduled substances and medical devices accompanying the foreign medical contingent and the quantity of medicines, scheduled substances and medical devices.</p> <p>Contact: Peter Fuhri, Director Disaster Medicine; fuhrip@health.gov.za</p> | Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication. |
| Switzerland | <p>Travelling team physicians are subject to Swiss medical professional law (MedBG Art. 35) which requires every physician treating patients to be in possession of a medical degree, plus a diploma of their specialization and a license to practice in the country of origin. Temporary licenses for international physicians who are working less than 3 months per year in Switzerland are regulated at federal level, meaning that for a sports event taking place in several cantons at a time (e.g. Tour de Suisse), several application might be necessary</p> <p>http://www.fmh.ch/files/pdf4/Anhang_4.pdf</p> | <p>Different from individual federal regulations for the license to practice, Swissmedic (http://www.swissmedic.ch/index.html?lang=en) is the overriding governmental body regulating the importation of medication. While Swiss law (HMG) in general prescribes a permission for importation of medication (Art. 18, par. 3), all medication including narcotics imported by a team physician are exempt from that permission up to the volume of a month's supply without a need of notification. It is however recommended to have a detailed list of all imported medication at hand.</p> | Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication. |
| Thailand | No temporary license is required for team physicians | A list of all medication brought to the country should be produced | Foreign |

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| | attending to their athletes and delegation. | upon customs clearance. | physicians may not write prescriptions for medication. |
| Turkey | <p>Travelling team physicians are subject to the regulations of the Turkish Republic Ministry of Health and Social Security Institution.</p> <p>No temporary license is required for team physicians attending to their athletes and delegation for small to medium sized events of sports federations.</p> <p>However, for major events organized by multinational sports organizations, such as Mediterranean Games, medical staff should be accredited through an application submitted via their NOC to the Turkish NOC.</p> | <p>Declaration of medication import is required for major sports events.</p> <p>Sports events organized by official sports federations are not subject to medical import declaration.</p> | Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medication. |
| USA | <p>The practice of the medical profession is regulated in the United States by State legislative bodies. The requirements to practice medicine are set by each State medical regulatory authority. Temporary licensing opportunities vary by State. Some States allow temporary licensure for travel to treat and some States do not provide for this privilege. The requirements vary on a State by State basis. The State licensing Boards can be found here: http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/education-careers/becoming-physician/medical-licensure/state-medical-boards.page</p> | <p>The transport of medications within the US is regulated by the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). (see reference hyperlinks below). Section 952 addresses the importation of controlled substances. In reference to controlled substances in schedule I or II and narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V, that it shall be unlawful to import into the customs territory of the United States from any place outside thereof (but within the United States), or to import into the United States from any place outside thereof, any controlled substance in schedule I or II of subchapter I of this chapter, or any narcotic drug in schedule III, IV, or V of subchapter I of this chapter, or ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine. There are three listed exceptions to the rule which would not apply to sporting activities.</p> <p>In regards to nonnarcotic controlled substances Section 952 B states in part "It shall be unlawful to import into the customs territory of the United States from any place outside thereof (but within the United States), or to import into the United States from any place outside thereof, any nonnarcotic controlled substance in schedule III, IV, or V." Once again there are exceptions which do not apply to sport</p> | Foreign physicians may not write prescriptions for medications. |