

Travelling with a Medical Condition

In some cases you are required to have a medical clearance before you can travel with Air Chathams

This medical clearance allows your doctor to consider whether it is safe for you to travel. It also allows Air Chathams to make arrangements for special services as required.

Air Chathams is committed to improving and facilitating passenger safety. A medical clearance is required if you have a medical condition which results in there being doubt that you can complete the flight safely or which poses a risk to other passengers. Most medical cases are straightforward, but some require individual assessment and you may be asked to travel with an escort.

Some examples of conditions that require a Medical Clearance include but are not limited to:

- Recent illness, hospitalisation, surgery or injury, including bone fractures
- Heart disease
- Lung disease
- Ear and sinus problems
- Psychiatric conditions
- Late pregnancy (beyond 37 weeks for a single pregnancy or beyond 31 weeks if a multiple pregnancy)
- Complicated pregnancy
- Any illness that could be contagious at the time of travel (particularly chicken pox, tuberculosis, measles and mumps)
- You are travelling for medical reasons or treatment

Medical clearance is always required for special medical equipment including:

- CPAP/VPAP
- Medical Oxygen (concentrator or bottles)
- Nebulisers
- Syringe pumps
- Ventilators

To prevent interference with aircraft systems, all electronic equipment must be approved by Air Chathams for use on board.

If a Medical clearance is required prior to travel

You will need to submit a completed Medical Clearance form to Air Chathams at least 3 days prior to travel. Air Chathams endeavour to approve your travel rapidly, however if the form is submitted within 3 days of the intended date of travel Air Chathams may not be able to provide clearance for your preferred departure date due to logistical and/or medical reasons.

The Medical Clearance form is available from the Air Chathams website.

The Medical Clearance form is in two sections

- Section 1 is the form for you or your Agent to complete.
- Section 2 is for your Doctor to complete. (the Doctor will need to have the medical guidelines for Doctors, also available on the website)

Once both Sections have been completed, please submit them to Air Chathams.

nzreservations@airchathams.co.nz

We will consider your travel & advise you by e-mail if you have been accepted for travel.

No medical clearance necessary - but please tell us

A medical clearance is not required for the following conditions but, in order to provide you with the best possible service, it is recommended that you provide Air Chathams with advance notice of your travel and seating requirements. When you book your travel, please let us know what kind of assistance you require. Civil Aviation rules require all passengers be able to place their seatback in the upright position when required.

- Otherwise healthy but have mobility difficulties and need a wheelchair
- Rehabilitated paraplegic/quadruplegic (you may need an escort)
- Visually impaired or blind
- Hearing impaired or deaf

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A wheelchair to the aircraft door alone does not require a Medical Clearance.

Consider completing a Medical Clearance form if you have an obvious medical condition that may cause difficulties or challenges during boarding (e.g. new limb casts, resolving chicken pox, late pregnancy etc).

Medications

If you require any medication during flight or at the airport, please remember to pack it in your hand baggage.

If your medication is required to be kept chilled, seek advice from your pharmacist. You will need to provide a suitable container with the cooling agent (ice or dry ice) inside. Our staff cannot take care of medication or store it in refrigerators.

Please note Dangerous Goods regulations state that dry ice containers cannot contain more than 2kg of dry ice and must not be sealed. A small vent is required to allow the carbon dioxide gas to escape.

Used medical equipment must not be placed in toilets or seat pockets as this is dangerous for other people.

Important: travelling on other airlines

If you are travelling on other airlines, you will need to check and comply with the other airlines' medical requirements for travel.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Air Chathams respects the privacy of its customers. This Privacy Notice explains how Air Chathams deal with the personal information provided as part of this Medical Clearance form. By submitting this form to Air Chathams, you authorise Air Chathams to collect, use, and disclose your personal information (including your health information and sensitive information) in accordance with this Privacy Statement and also to the extent not prohibited by applicable privacy legislation

If you choose not to provide us with the personal information that we request as part of this form then we may not be able to provide you with assistance or the services you request or carry you as a passenger on our aircraft.

Air Chathams will collect the personal information you provide as part of this form together with any supporting medical and health information provided by medical professionals on your behalf. Air Chathams will use your personal information (including your health information and sensitive information) to facilitate your air travel, to provide you with flight related assistance and services, and to accommodate any medical equipment that you may need to carry on your flight.

Air Chathams will also retain your personal information so that we can assist you when you travel with us in the future. In order to provide flight related assistance and services to you, we may need to share your personal information (including your health information and sensitive information) with third parties, including reservation agents, travel service providers, other airline carriers and medical, safety, and aviation personnel.

Air Chathams may also collect and share your personal information with third parties if we believe this is desirable to lessen or prevent a serious threat to an individual's life, health or safety or a serious threat to public health or public safety; or if we believe that it would be in the interests of aviation safety and security.

You may have rights under privacy legislation to access and correct the personal information we hold about you. If you would like to access or correct your personal information, or if you have any questions or complaints in relation to privacy, please contact us.

0800 580 127, or 03 3050 209, or nzreservations@airchathams.co.nz, or

Contact the Customer Services Manager on 021 580 218

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MEDICAL CLEARANCE

Section 2 To be completed by nominated DOCTOR	Section 2 of this form must be completed by a Doctor if the passenger has a serious or unstable medical condition - refer Medical Guidelines for Doctors The Doctor is requested to answer all questions		
PASSENGER'S NAME:	MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE OF BIRTH	
DOCTOR NAME:		SPECIALITY:	
NAME OF HOSPITAL/CLINIC:			
MOBILE:	FAX:	EMAIL:	
Note: You may be contacted by Air Chathams for further information to allow your patient to fly. Please provide all contact information requested			
NATURE of ILLNESS or INJURY			
Is the passenger free from Contagious and/or Communicable disease? YES / NO Comments:			
Would the physical and/or mental condition of the: passenger cause distress, discomfort or a safety risk to other passengers? YES / NO Comments:			
Can the passenger use a normal aircraft seat with seatback placed in the UPRIGHT position? YES / NO Comments:			
Does the passenger need supplementary Oxygen in flight? YES / NO Comments:			
Can the passenger take care of their own needs on board? - Including feeding, toileting, mobility etc. YES / NO Comments:			
Does the passenger need any Medication, other than self-administered? YES / NO Comments:			
Escort Required: Yes / No		TYPE: Companion / Nurse / Doctor	
Comments:			

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Medical Clearance - Part 2 (Continued)		
WHEELCHAIR REQUIRED? YES / NO	Cannot walk to aircraft, but can manage stairs <input type="checkbox"/> Cannot walk to aircraft, cannot manage stairs <input type="checkbox"/> Requires assistance to cabin seat <input type="checkbox"/>	
SPECIAL SERVICES REQUIRED? YES / NO	DETAILS:	
Other remarks or information in the interest of the passenger's smooth and comfortable travel.		
DOCTORS DECLARATION I understand the final decision for passenger acceptance for travel rests with Air Chathams alone. - I have read and understood the Air Chathams Medical Guidelines for Doctors. - In my opinion, this person is safe to undertake the proposed flights, is free from communicable disease, and is not likely to affect the safety or wellbeing of other passengers or crew. - I agree that the services requested above are appropriate in the circumstances. This passenger is able to take care of their own meals, transfers, personal hygiene, medication and other needs in flight (or is escorted by someone who can assist with all these needs). - Where an ESCORT is required, I believe they are qualified and have all necessary equipment to deal with the patient's needs and any likely complications during the journey.		
NAME:	SIGNATURE	DATE
MEDICAL COUNCIL NUMBER:		

Air Chathams accepts the passenger named on this form for travel	YES / NO	
Comments:		
NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE

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Medical Guidelines for Doctors completing Section two of a Medical Clearance form

When to submit a Medical Clearance form

Complete a Medical Clearance form if your patient has any of the following:

1. An injury, illness or medical condition that may cause significant problems for them or others in flight. (eg. Heart disease/angina, severe mobility problems, psychiatric problems, injury & unable to bend at the knee)
2. A medical condition that may be made worse by the flight itself. (eg. Significant lung disease, ear & sinus problems, recent surgery)
3. An infectious disease that could be contagious at the time of travel (eg. Chicken pox, TB, measles, mumps, influenza)
4. Late pregnancy (beyond 37 weeks for a single pregnancy or beyond 31 weeks if a multiple pregnancy)
5. Complicated pregnancy
6. A requirement for special medical equipment, (eg. Nebulisers, oxygen, syringe pumps, CPAP)

NOTE: A wheelchair to the aircraft door alone does not require a Medical Clearance.

Considerations when assessing fitness to fly

Civil Aviation Rules require all passengers to be able to use the aircraft seat with the seat back upright. Exit row seats are only to be occupied by able bodied passengers.

Aircraft cabins are pressurised, but not to sea level. The cabin pressure may be equivalent of up to 3,050 meters (10,000 feet). This results in;

- a) Less available oxygen (PaO₂ drops from 21% to 10-12%)
- b) Gas expansion in body cavities (approximately one third increase in volume) – particularly relevant to trapped gas in middle ear, sinuses & after surgery
- c) Air travel also results in low humidity, turbulence, immobility and increased stress for some passengers.

Consider completing a Medical Clearance for passengers with:

- a) an obvious medical condition that may cause difficulties or challenges during boarding (eg. New limb casts, resolving chicken pox, etc)
- b) continence & mobility problems

Also consider the comfort of the person & other travellers

Some of Air Chathams flights operate without cabin crew.

If operating with cabin crew they are NOT authorised to give special assistance to particular passengers, to the detriment of their service to other passengers. - Cabin crew often are required to handle food and are therefore UNABLE to assist with toileting needs. - They are trained in FIRST AID procedures only and are NOT PERMITTED to administer any injection, or give medication. - Please ensure the passenger has all the necessary help via their travel companion/escort – if required