PEME – Pre Engagement Medical Examination

The Swedish Club Philippine Pre Engagement Medical Examination, hereinafter referred to as The Swedish Club PEME, is now finalised and is available to be implemented by our members employing Filipino crew members as of 1 January 2011.

Pre Engagement Medical Examinations and the impact such examinations have on the liability to which an employer is exposed is well known to all shipowners and managers who have experienced the frustration and risk involved in having a crewmember serving on board in an unacceptable medical condition, physically or mentally, which should have rendered him/her unfit for sea service. The safety aspect of having unfit seafarers onboard cannot be emphasised enough. Apart from the seafarer’s own wellbeing and safety, it is easy to appreciate the risk imposed on colleagues, the operation of the vessel and the environment. The quality of pre engagement medical examinations, as well as the quality of the clinics and examining physicians involved, is crucial.

Clinics

After a careful and thorough process, agreements have been signed with two clinics in Manila accredited to perform the enhanced PEME as a service available only to The Swedish Club’s members.

The two clinics have been appointed for their quality and high standards of medical performance, as well as having a working reporting system in place. The latter is important to the Club in order for us to be able to monitor developments and progress in the quality of the seafarers employed by our members. The aim, as described in earlier communications, is to safeguard human interests as well as to implement an efficient cost-saving procedure for our membership.

The clinics appointed were selected at the sole discretion of The Swedish Club. It should also be noted that the clinics now appointed will be under continuous review and evaluation in order to uphold and confirm the quality of performance and compliance with The Swedish Club PEME.

The clinics chosen in this way to enable our members to benefit from our enhanced PEME are the PTC Health Metrics represented by Dr Antonio Abaya, and Halcyon Marine Healthcare Systems represented by Dr Glenda Canlas. Further details on the respective clinics are stated below and will be available on our website as of January 2011.

The Swedish Club PEME Designated Medical Examiner’s Handbook

The unique feature of The Swedish Club PEME is not only the tests required, which are carefully and selectively chosen to reflect the characteristics of Philippine seafarers, but the fact that strict criteria have been established reflecting not only the manner in which tests are carried out, but also how the results of those tests should be interpreted in order for a potential seafarer to be assessed as fit or unfit for service onboard a vessel entered with The Swedish Club. The relevant criteria are set out in The Swedish Club PEME.
Designated Medical Examiner’s Handbook, which has been designed and created with the assistance of our medical expert Mr Nigel Griffiths. He has vast experience in the area and we are indebted to him for his work and for sharing his experience with us. Strict criteria, which in our mind are imperative, are, to the best of our knowledge, not found in other PEME schemes in place. The Handbook is a medical document provided to our selected clinics only.

It is very important to emphasise that a seafarer who does not fulfil the medical criteria set out in our PEME is not categorically declared unfit for sea service, but unfit in accordance with the Club’s medical policy.

The cost of the enhanced Swedish Club PEME is charged to the referring agency at a flat fee of USD 105 or its equivalent in Philippine currency for each examination performed. Each clinic holds liability insurance at a minimum level agreed including but not limited to medical malpractice. In addition to this insurance a repatriation guarantee is in place.

It is our hope that The Swedish Club PEME will provide our members with a tool by which it will be possible to minimise costs referring to seafarers who should not be employed on board your vessels for their own safety and for the safety of the vessel.

Ensuring the physical health and mental welfare of the crew is of vital importance from many perspectives, as well as being commercially viable.

Recognition
Apart from Nigel Griffiths and other medical experts, both in Manila and Sweden, we are very grateful to our correspondents in Manila, Del Rosario & Del Rosario, for their continuous support and legal advice rendered through the process of finalising The Swedish Club PEME. Particular thanks and recognition go to Mr Ruben Del Rosario and Mr Charles Jay Dela Cruz.

For further information from the Club please contact Birgitta Hed, birgitta.hed@swedishclub.com

We are convinced that our prudent members will appreciate the quality represented by The Swedish Club PEME and we invite you to contact the respective clinic, the details of whom in alphabetical order are as follows:

› Halcyon Marine Healthcare Systems
  10th and 19th Floors, Trafalgar Plaza,
  105 H.V. Dela Costa St.
  Salcedo Village, Makati City
  Telephone: +63 2 864 0205
  Telefax  +63 2 864 0262

Inquiries may be directed to the following:
Dr Glennda Canlas, Medical Director
glennda.canlas@gmail.com
cc: audejesus@halcyonmarinehealth.com
Dr Marilar de Guzman, Assistant Medical Director
marilarmd@halcyonmarinehealth.com
Ms Aimee Cupat, Customer Service Representative
aimee@halcyonmarinehealth.com

› PTC Health Metrics
  11/F Pryce Center
  1179 D, Chino Roces Ave., Brgy San Antonio
  Makati City
  Telephone: +63 2 895 3292
  Telefax: +63 2 897 3597

Inquiries may be directed to the following:
Dr Antonio Roberto Abaya, Medical Director
aabaya@ptc.com.ph
Ms Marlet Magno, Clinic Manager
mmagno@ptchealth.com.ph

Yours sincerely,
The Swedish Club

Lars Rhodin