

Job Description –Medical Leader

Overview

Expedition medical teams are devised for each of our expeditions based on a thorough assessment of medical requirements taking into account a range of factors including, but not limited to, the environment, client group and access to local facilities/services. Our medical teams consist of fully qualified medical professionals and may include Doctors and other healthcare professionals such as Nurses or Paramedics with appropriate specialist experience. Our expeditions include both Senior and Junior medics.

Senior Medical Leaders

Are always fully qualified doctors and will usually have expedition medicine experience prior to taking on the role. They oversee screening processes and support junior medical leaders in decision making in the field. Where there is only one medical leader attached to an expedition team, they will automatically be a Senior Medical Leader.

Junior Medical Leaders

May be doctors, nurses or paramedics. They work under the supervision of the Senior Medical Leader in the field although this supervision will often be remote rather than direct.

Essential requirements

- An interest in youth development and experience of working with young people relevant to the expedition client group*
- High levels of integrity and sound judgement
- A strong and flexible team player
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong leadership skills and the ability to inspire others
- The ability to deal with conflict and overcome challenges
- Expedition experience or extensive personal travel in remote areas/developing world locations
- An enthusiasm for expeditions and the ability to convey this to young people

*client groups vary between expeditions and may include young people with special educational needs, low aspirations, emotional and behavioural difficulties or specific developmental or support needs. Please see the relevant expedition pages for more details.

Doctors

- MBChB/MBBS (or equivalent)
- Full UK GMC registration with no restrictions on practice or equivalent registration in another country. (For UK trained GMC registered doctors, this requires satisfactory completion of F1 and F2 years prior to the expedition departure date)

Nurses

- Full Nursing Qualification
- Full UK GNC registration with no restrictions on practice or equivalent registration in an EU country.
- Expedition medicine course or qualification (such as advanced expedition first aid)
- Must hold a prescribing qualification and be able to gain personal defence union cover

Paramedics

- Currently licensed paramedic
- Expedition medicine course or qualification (such as advanced expedition first aid)
- Must be able to gain personal defence union cover

Desirable attributes

- Outdoor leadership qualifications and/or training
- Adventurous/outdoor activity experience or qualifications
- DipIMC, FIMC or DipMM)
- Experience of A&E and/or Trauma medicine
- Expedition medicine course or qualification e.g. Wilderness Medical Training (WMT) or similar

Responsibilities**Pre-Expedition**

- Attend training weekends (3 to 4 weekends in the 6 months prior to the expedition, dependent on expedition programme)
- Contact your defence organisation and ensure they will provide cover for your role on the expedition. You should not leave this too late and should make sure you obtain written confirmation of cover.
- Research medical problems specific to location and activities of expedition
- Check the contents of medical kits provided to you by the BES office and confirm that it meets the needs of your team and expedition liaising with the office team as appropriate relating to any expedition specific additions
- Brief all expedition members on medical issues during pre-expedition training. You will be expected to give a short medical talk about important issues pertinent to the expedition.
- Undertake 1-2-1 interviews with all expedition participants during pre-expedition training as part of the medical screening process. Where participants are unable to attend training, you will be provided with a phone to enable you to do this remotely.
- Answer medical queries from the office, participants and parents, particularly regarding any applicants with medical concerns
- You may be asked to support the process of obtaining permits for controlled drugs (if applicable)
- Contribute to planning, risk assessments, expedition-specific guidelines and similar as appropriate and directed by British Exploring Society or the expedition Chief Leader
- Liaise closely with the British Exploring Society medical advisors and the office team to ensure that any guidance produced is checked and cleared before publication

On Expedition

- Inspire our Explorers and engage fully in activities to support the educational aims and purpose of BES and the expedition
- All leaders must regard, as priority, the safety of each and every member of the expedition at all times
- At the beginning of the expedition: Brief leaders and participants with respect to the first aid kits, their contents and usage, and any other points pertinent to the expedition
- Contact local medical facilities to confirm services available and access to them
- Be on call throughout the expedition to deal with any medical queries
- Complete an incident/medical form for any issues that arise in order to maintain accurate records
- Encourage everyone to self-manage minor problems, with input from medic if appropriate
- At the end of the expedition, brief all participants on post expedition "blues". Suggest they see their GP if they develop any illness after return and give history of being on expedition. If appropriate, instruct expedition members to continue anti-malarial medication where relevant.

Post Expedition

- Provide a medical report detailing any relevant lessons learned for future expeditions
- Contribute to the overall post expedition report (PXR) and expedition feedback, as appropriate and directed by British Exploring Society and/or Chief Leader
- Contact participants GPs with details of any serious medical issues during expedition if appropriate
- Attend the expedition debrief event & presentation. This is usually a single day event held in London approximately 2 months after your return from expedition.