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## The Ship Captain's Medical Guide 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Notice to all shipowners, fishing vessel owners, managers, masters and skippers,  
seafarers and training providers

*This MIN expires 31 October 2020*

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### Summary

- The 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Ship Captain's Medical Guide (SCMG) was published on 23 September 2019.
- The SCMG is primarily intended for vessels with no medical professional on board, providing practical guidance for those responsible for first aid or medical care on board.
- All UK ships and fishing vessels carrying Category A or Category B medical stores must carry the latest edition of the SCMG, and existing copies should be replaced as soon as practicable and in any case within [three months].
- It is also the handbook for UK medical first aid and medical care training.
- Typographical corrections for the first impression of the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition are in the Annex to this notice.

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Ship Captain's Medical Guide (SCMG) was published on 23 September 2019.
- 1.2. The SCMG is intended primarily for use on vessels where there is no medical professional, such as a doctor, on board. It provides assistance and direction for crew members when it becomes necessary for them to assess and treat trauma and medical illness. Ships and fishing vessels which carry Category A or Category B stores are required also to carry a copy of the Guide. This may be in electronic format (see paragraph 3.2) provided that it is readily accessible to anyone who may need to use it.
- 1.3. The SCMG is also the handbook for UK medical first aid and medical training.

### 2. Changes to the SCMG

- 2.1. For the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, the guide has been comprehensively re-written, with the aim of reflecting current best medical practice, applying this to the maritime environment. The new guide



also incorporates advances over the past 20 years in medical technology, treatment algorithms and global communications.

2.2. MSN 1768(M+F) on Medical Stores is to be updated to reflect the revised guidance in the SCMG. Learning outcomes and syllabus for the UK medical first aid and medical care courses will also be updated.

### 3. How to obtain copies

3.1. The Ship Captain's Medical Guide 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ISBN number **9780115534614**) is published by TSO on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). Copies may be obtained from TSO, the MCA's official publisher, via their website.

<https://www.tsoshop.co.uk/Transport/Maritime-and-Coastguard-Agency-MCA/>

3.2. An e-book is in preparation and is expected to be available for purchase in October 2019.

3.3. Due to intellectual property included in the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition. the SCMG will no longer be freely available from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). The content may not be reproduced without the permission of TSO.

### 4. Corrections

4.1. The Annex to this notice lists corrections to the first impression (hard copy only). These do not apply in the e-book and will be corrected in the hard copy when the book is reprinted (expected to be in 2020).

### More Information

Seafarer Safety and Health Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/17  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 203 817 2498  
e-mail: [seafarer.sh@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:seafarer.sh@mcga.gov.uk)

Website Address: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

General Enquiries: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)

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telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

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## Annex

Since the publication of the 23rd Edition of the SCMG on 23 September 2019, the following corrections should be noted:

- Page 231: second bullet: cross-reference missing. Change “xxX” to “212”. (It refers to chapter on minor operative set-up)
- Page 237, heading: cross-reference is wrong. Change “234” to “236”

## Index

- Page 313, right-hand column, antibiotics guide: change “BF1” to “BF2”.
- Page 315, right-hand column, documentation/TMAS medical incident form: change “BF2” to “FF”.
- Page 319, right-hand column, pain relief/guide to: change “FF” to “BF1”
- Page 320, right-hand column, side effects/antibiotics: change “BF1” to “BF2”
- Page 320, right-hand column, side effects/pain relief: change “FF” to “BF1”
- Page 321, left-hand column, telemedical advice services (TMAS): delete “6”
- Page 321, left-hand column, TMAS medical incident form: change “BF2” to “FF”
- Page 321, left-hand column, TMAS (telemedical advice services): delete “6”.

