Guidance Notes on Medical Care Training

Proficiency In Medical Care on Board

This course is for seafarers designated to take charge of medical care on board ship or who have responsibility for checking medical equipment. On initial application to the MCA, those delegates applying for Certificates of Competency (Chief Mate or Masters) will need to hold a medical care certificate no older than five years.

This course may also be undertaken to update an existing Proficiency in Medical Care certificate.

Entry Requirements

Delegates attending this course are required to be at least 16 years old and to hold one of the following certificates as proof of prerequisite training.

- Proficiency in Medical First Aid on Board Ship reference STCW Code Section A-VI/4 -1
- Proficiency in Medical Care on Board reference STCW Code Section A-VI/4 -2
- Updated Proficiency Medical Care on Board reference STCW Code Section A-VI/4 -2

NB: Please note that the First Aid at Sea and the Ship Captains Medical certificates that predate STCW95 training are NOT accepted as prerequisites. If you are unsure that the certificate you hold is an acceptable one please contact the course administrator to check before attending the course.

All delegates must be conversant with current first aid practices at the commencement of the course. It is recommended that delegates who have not had recent first aid training undertake additional personal study to obtain a satisfactory level of understanding and practise. To assist with this, brief first aid revision notes are sent with the course booking confirmation.

Learning Outcomes

On completion, delegates will have knowledge of medical stores and equipment on board to be able to achieve the learning outcomes which are:

Outcome 1: The learner understands how to participate in the coordinated provision of medical care to a person on board, including evacuation

Outcome 2: The learner understands how to assess a casualty and provide care to an ill person on board

Outcome 3: The learner understands how to assess a casualty and provide care to an injured casualty on board
Assessment

Assessment is by short answer question papers and assessment of competence in practical skills. There is a short answer first aid question paper in the first part of the course, followed by a final short answer question paper on the last day.

**NB: The delegate must be successful in all assessments for a certificate to be issued.**

Where there is deficiency in practical performance, including oral questioning, remedial tuition will be provided to the delegate, with the opportunity to achieve the required learning outcome.

Failure to reach the required standard in the first aid short answer paper will be discussed with the delegate and a remedial learning plan agreed which may require attendance at a first aid course in order to achieve competence. A satisfactory outcome is required before a delegate is awarded the medical care certificate.

Failure to reach the required standard in the final short answer question paper will mean automatic failure. Resit of the final examination is allowed where appropriate.

Updating A Medical Care Certificate

On EU member state flagged vessels the master and any worker delegated the use of medical supplies must receive special training updated **at least every five years** taking into account the specific risks and needs connected with the different categories of vessel. For UK flagged vessels the MCA has interpreted this to be that the master or any person designated to take charge of medical care, must hold a recognised Proficiency in Medical Care or Updated Proficiency in Medical Care certificate **issued within the last five years**.

Experience has shown that very few delegates are able to confidently undertake the Update course, which is an intensive refresher, unless they have had extensive “hands-on” medical and first aid experience at sea. Many do not have this experience particularly where they work on vessels that have medical professionals on board.

Skill and knowledge fade from original training is rapid and three intensive training days does not adequately prepare the delegate to fulfil with confidence their medical role on board. Failing the update course was not uncommon.

Warsash Maritime Academy has always recommended that delegates complete the full five day Proficiency in Medical Care course to fulfil mandatory updating requirements.

For the current academic year, Warsash Maritime Academy will not be offering the three day Updated Proficiency in Medical Care course.

Should you have any queries regarding medical care training contact the Admissions and Recruitment Team in the first instance.

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Office hours are (UK time):
Monday - Thursday: 08.30 - 17.00
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