



ICRC

ICRC pre-deployment medical evaluation

Medical standards applied

ICRC mobile staff, and resident staff deployed out of their residence country, are required to undergo a medical examination prior to the beginning of each mission. The objective is to determine their physical and mental fitness for working with ICRC. No physical or mental medical condition will preclude service, unless this condition renders the individual incapable of performing the essential function of the job, or unless it is determined that the service will pose a direct threat to the individual's own health and/or safety. However, each candidate and staff member should be aware that most of ICRC missions are in remote locations, and any inability to be posted in remote areas will de facto preclude obtaining of a medical clearance.

The ICRC Senior Medical Advisor and the ICRC Staff Health Centre of Expertise recommend that certain conditions are considered with particular precaution regarding ICRC field assignments because treatment may not be available, access to health care could be non-existent and/or deployment could put the life of the staff member at risk. Those conditions are the following:

1. Body Mass Index (BMI) > 35 kg/m² or <16.5 kg/m²
2. Asthma with history of hospitalisation and/or requiring oral corticosteroid therapy
3. Any chronic respiratory disease that limits the functional capacity
4. Cardiac conditions such as:
 - Non-controlled hypertension
 - Recent acute myocardial infarction (1 year)
 - Pacemaker
 - Recent coronary revascularization intervention (1 year)
 - Any symptomatic cardiac disorder
5. Non-controlled and insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
6. HIV infection: symptomatic and/or CD 4 < 500 cells/mm³
7. History of epilepsy
8. Anticoagulation therapy
9. Hypothyroidism after total thyroidectomy
10. Ongoing treatment for cancer
11. Any disease that requires therapy with immunomodulators or immunosuppressants
12. Ongoing therapy for hepatitis B or C
13. History of mental disorders that have required or requires hospitalisation, regular follow-up and/or long term therapy (> 6 months)
14. Any condition that requires the use of sleeping pills and/or anxiolytics on a regular basis
15. History of allergy with anaphylaxis
16. Any condition that precludes the capacity to run down the stairs

These are general guidelines, applied to all staff members. The list is not exhaustive. The final decision regarding medical clearance belongs to ICRC Senior Medical Advisor.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Staff Health Centre of Expertise
September 2015