

ICRC pre-deployment medical evaluation

Medical standards applied

[French version](#)

ICRC employees on a mobile or a resident contract deployed out of their residence country are required to undergo a medical examination prior to the beginning of the 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 the medical clearance to travel.

The medical doctors of the ICRC Staff Health Unit in Headquarters 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 employee member at risk. Those conditions are the following:

1. Asthma with history of hospitalisation and/or requiring oral corticosteroid therapy
2. Any chronic respiratory disease that limits the functional capacity
3. Cardiac conditions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-controlled hypertension • Recent acute myocardial infarction (1 year) • Pacemaker • Recent coronary revascularization intervention (1 year) • Any symptomatic cardiac disorder
4. Non-controlled (HbA1c >7.5%) and insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
5. HIV infection: symptomatic and/or CD 4 < 500 cells/mm3
6. History of epilepsy (even when treatment has been discontinued, it should be reported)
7. Anticoagulation therapy ongoing for any cause
8. Hypothyroidism after total thyroidectomy
9. Ongoing treatment for cancer
10. Any disease that requires therapy with immunomodulators or immunosuppressants
11. Ongoing therapy for hepatitis B with Interferon
12. History of a mental health condition requiring hospitalization and/or psychotropic medication in the past 24 months
13. Any condition requiring the use of sleeping pills and/or anxiolytics on a regular basis
14. History of allergy with anaphylaxis (Type II-III and IV should be reported)
15. Any substance use disorder and/or present abuse of alcohol (regular consumption of more than 14 units of alcohol per week for women and 21 units of alcohol per week for men)
16. Body Mass Index (BMI) <16.5 kg/m2

In addition, Staff health has been mandated by ICRC to check on two non-medical criteria associated with safety, security and/or capacity to medevac in an air-ambulance:

1. Any condition precluding the capacity of fast and autonomous physical mobilization (i.e. running down the stairs in case of emergency evacuation)
2. Body Mass Index (BMI) >32 kg/m2 at recruitment and >35 kg/m2 for any following field assignment

These are general guidelines, applied to all staff members. The list is not exhaustive. The final decision regarding medical clearance belongs to the medical doctors of ICRC Staff Health. Candidates or their medical doctor can contact the medical doctors of ICRC Staff health at gva_hr_medical@icrc.org.