



## *Programme d'évacuations aéromédicales du Québec (EVAQ)*

### *Flying hospital missions*

### *Parental accompaniment*

## **Companion's guide**

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**Note:** The expression “your child” in this document indicates the child of the accompanying parent or the child accompanied by the designated companion.

Your child's state of health necessitates medical expertise not offered in your region. Your child's transfer has therefore been requested by the doctor who treated him or her, and a medical colleague at another hospital is waiting for your child to take over the case.

The transfer of a patient is always considered a critical phase. This is why good planning and organizing of air transportation is important.

Our team wants to provide your child and his or her family with the best care and services available. We believe your presence can reassure the child and contribute to his or her state of health.

However, safety aboard an air medical evacuation flight is essential and we need your cooperation.

To ensure everyone's comfort, welfare and safety, this guide contains all the information you need to know to facilitate your child's transportation.

### **Presence with your child**

The presence of a parent or a companion is reassuring for the child who must be transferred and who must receive in-flight care.

Only one person may be admitted to accompany a child under 18 years of age during an air medical evacuation. As a parent or tutor, you will be offered the possibility of accompanying your child during his or her transportation. You may also designate a representative to accompany your child.

Minor children are not authorized as companions, except in the case of the child's parent.

Only one companion may be authorized during the flight.

## **Evaluation and consent**

The referring physician will have to make the request for the presence of a companion.

After confirmation of the availability of seats on the aircraft by the central control of the Programme d'évacuations aéromédicales du Québec (EVAQ), the staff will have to evaluate your ability to act as a companion on the flight as a parent or designated person. Since this is an urgent transfer in an air transportation environment, you must be autonomously mobile and able to communicate with the team and follow the safety instructions.

Your written consent is mandatory.

The ultimate decision to board people on the aircraft is always up to the crew. The pilot in command has the decision-making authority.

Except if programs exist for this purpose, you are responsible for organizing your stay, your lodging and your return. The referring institution can assist you as needed.

## **Crew**

The crew is composed of people responsible for ensuring that transportation runs smoothly (pilot, copilot and flight attendant) and the people responsible for providing your child with the required care during the transfer (doctor and nurse).

Additional staff could be added, depending on the health needs of your child or another person aboard the flying hospital.

## **Boarding procedure**

When you arrive at the airport, the ambulance will approach the plane. Given the limited space in the cabin, you must remain in the ambulance while your child is boarded and installed on the aircraft. At the appropriate time, a member of the crew will come get you. The flight attendant will show you the seat assigned to you.

## **Safety instructions**

Safety is a crucial factor to ensure that in-flight operations run smoothly, allow an efficient transfer and provide the care your child requires. Your cooperation is essential throughout the flight.

The pilot or the flight attendant will inform you of the safety instructions.

The following points will be discussed:

- Boarding procedures for the child and the companion (every movement must be accompanied by a crew member);
- Obligation to follow all the instructions provided by the crew;
- Access to the cockpit prohibited;
- Use of seat belts, flotation devices and oxygen masks;
- Emergency evacuation procedures;
- Use of electronic devices and prohibition of smoking.

If an emergency evacuation is necessary, the flight crew is responsible for your child's safe evacuation. In such a case, follow the crew's instructions.

### **Non-exclusive flight**

The flying hospital may allow transportation of several patients at a time to assure them of the required care. It may be necessary to make one or more other landings before your final destination to board other patients. Your cooperation is requested so that the operations are conducted without delay.

### **Prohibited and regulated articles**

The possession and consumption of alcohol or narcotics and the use of dangerous objects are strictly prohibited. Lighters, matches, e-cigarettes and batteries must be carried on your person.

### **Permitted baggage**

Since the space aboard the aircraft is limited, only one small carry-on bag will be accepted. Its dimensions must not exceed 16 in x 12 in x 7 in (40 cm x 30 cm x 17.5 cm). Additional baggage must be sent by another means (e.g. airline).

### **Useful information**

- Wear warm, comfortable clothing.
- You must remain seated at all times.
- All electronic devices must be in "aircraft" mode or turned off while on board.
- Taking photos or videos is prohibited at all times.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions to the flight crew.