

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the Zika Virus  
and Medical Evacuations

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**1. I am pregnant and on travel orders posted in a CDC Level 2 travel alert country (Zika country). Am I eligible for medevac?**

Yes. All pregnant patients on travel orders posted in a Zika country are eligible to request an obstetrical medevac.

**2. Do I have to Medevac?**

No the decision is yours. Should you decide not to medevac you can change your mind and medevac later.

**3. Can I be medevaced if I am on TDY in a Zika country?**

No. If you wish to leave the country due to Zika concerns you should inform your supervisor and request to leave. You would depart on your TDY return ticket back to your original duty station. MED would support your request to leave. If your original duty station is a Zika country, you would be eligible for Medevac from that country.

**4. Can I be medevaced if I am actively trying to conceive or wish to conceive?**

No. You must be pregnant to be eligible for medevac. You should address any concerns you have concerning your situation to your agency or Career Development Officer to explore other potential options to leave the country.

**5. Can non-pregnant adults or children be medevaced only because they are posted in a Zika country?**

No. See above.

**6. I am pregnant in a country close to a Zika country and have heard that Zika may be in my country also. Can I leave now on Medevac?**

Once Foreign Programs has received and authorized a request for obstetrical medevac from post, the patient may leave at any time to their medevac point. Their per diem will start 45 days prior to their expect date of delivery. Should their post be declared a Zika country earlier, they may start per diem on the date the declaration is made.

**7. Can I medevac to anywhere I want?**

No. MED's usual policies apply. All pregnant women are encouraged to deliver in the United States. If you wish to deliver in another overseas location this must be reviewed and authorized by Foreign Programs. Once you declare your OB medevac location you may only travel to that location, receive per diem and file for lodging reimbursement from that location.

**8. I am hoping to telework while on Medevac or find an alternate work location while on medevac before going to my delivery location. Can I do this?**

Yes. A person may telework while on medevac. If they are receiving per diem from their employer to do so this per diem would trump medical per diem. MED will allow pregnant employees from Zika countries to medevac to two separate CONUS locations if the first location is for the purpose of working. The employee will need to fund their own travel to the second location. For this purpose, employee is defined as a direct hire employee on the travel orders to post.

**9. What happens if a patient leaves on OB medevac and is not expected to complete their medevac until after their PCS date?**

For EFM's they will receive per diem until their employee partner PCS's. For employees there are two potential scenarios. If their next assignment is in CONUS they are expected to end their current assignment and start their new CONUS assignment at this time. They would depart on a PCS ticket and they are not eligible for medical per diem. They may qualify for a home transfer allowance. If their next assignment is another overseas Post, they would depart on a PCS ticket but would be eligible for medical per diem until reaching their original PCS date. They would come off medical per diem once their home leave, consultation days or any planned training starts. Should their departure date for their next post arrive before the end of the OB medevac, 45 days after delivery, they could resume receiving medical per diem until cleared.

**10. My next post is in a Zika country and I am pregnant, what are my options?**

At the expected date of your departure you may elect to not travel on to post and start your OB medevac. At the end of your OB medevac you would travel on to post with your PCS ticket. As noted previously, you are not required to do so and may elect to travel on to post anyway. If you would rather break your assignment you would need to discuss this with your agency or bureau.

**11. My partner is pregnant and being medevac. Can I or our other children receive orders to travel with her?**

You may not. Partners are not authorized to travel on OB medevacs or receive per diem. Children are eligible for travel and per diem upon verification that there is no child care available at post. The children must leave at the same time as the mother.

**12. I am the employee and my partner has left on an OB medevac and will be away for nearly 9 months. I do not want to be away from her that long. What are my options?**

You can ask for a compassionate curtailment. You should discuss this with your agency or bureau HR department or Career Development Officer for direction on how to apply.

**13. If I leave on my OB medevac now, can I come back to post later, for example after the first trimester, until my original planned date at 34 weeks?**

MED would remind you that there is a risk to the fetus during the entire pregnancy, not just the first trimester. For a healthy pregnancy MED does not change your medical clearance. As long as your pregnancy continues without complications you can return to post. You must inform Foreign Programs that you are doing so and receive their authorization. You may only receive one round trip OB medevac ticket so any return travel would be at your expense. Your OB medevac per diem would be suspended when back at Post. You would not be eligible for any further prenatal medevacs.

**14. Fort Lauderdale is my region's medevac center. Due to recent local transmission of Zika in the Miami area what are my medevac options?**

Patients in the WHA Bureau south of the continental U.S. have the option to medevac to either the Miami or Houston area full fare (not cost construct).

**15. Can I still medevac to the Miami area for prenatal testing or for delivery?**

Yes you can. However, before you travel we will ask you to sign document [3224](#) Registry and Counseling for Pregnant Women in Zika Virus Threat Areas, even if you have signed one already, specifying that you are aware Zika Virus transmission exists in the Miami area and have been informed of potential risks.

**16. Now that Singapore is a Zika country, can I still go there on medevac?**

Yes you can. However, before you travel we will ask you to sign document [3223.3](#) Zika Location Medevac Acknowledgment Form. The purpose of this form is to ensure that you have received counseling concerning the risks of travel to a country under the CDC level 2 travel advisory for Zika. Your local health unit should provide you with this counseling either in person or via phone. You should freely ask questions and have any concerns addressed.

**17. Singapore is my Post's medevac site but I do not want to go there due to Zika. What are my options?**

MED will not require you to go to Singapore on medevac. Your provider will counsel you on the risks of going to Singapore due to Zika. After receiving this counseling, if you still wish to go elsewhere for your medevac, your provider will find an alternative site. Bangkok would be the first alternative for Singapore medevacs. If Bangkok is incapable

of treating your condition another site will be chosen based on your specific circumstances.

**18.** How are the Southeast Asia posts affected by the CDC travel advisory sent out September 28<sup>th</sup>?

Posts: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), Brunei Darussalam, Timor Leste.

For the purposes of pregnancy at post, MED considers these post the same as those under the level 2 travel advisory. Any woman who is pregnant at post at the time of the announcement or becomes pregnant will be offered early medevac starting from the time their pregnancy is confirmed.

**19.** How does the September 28<sup>th</sup> travel advisory affect the Bangkok medevac center?

Since the travel advisory of focused toward the travel of pregnant women, any woman who is pregnant and needs a medevac in the Singapore/Bangkok region will be offered a medevac to the US or another medevac center site if more convenient for the traveler, unless MED designates an alternate medevac site in the region. Non-pregnant travelers will still use Bangkok as a primary medevac location or first alternative location for Singapore.