

## Medical Evacuation

The U.S. Government does not fund free-of-charge service for medical evacuation of private U.S. citizens from overseas except in very rare cases, usually related to a crisis.

There are three principal means of transport in medical evacuation cases:

- Commercial airlines;
- Privately chartered jets or air ambulance services
- U.S. Air Force Medical Evacuation (USAF Medevac).

**\*\*The U.S. Embassy/Consulate and the Department of State assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by the non-governmental organizations whose names appear below. We do not endorse any of these organizations. Names of organizations are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. \*\***

### Commercial airlines:

The least expensive commercial airline usually charges twice the full economy fare for a stretcher, in addition to the cost of the tickets for the passenger and escort. Most airlines charge four or five times the economy fare for a stretcher, plus the cost of the passengers' tickets.

Charitable option with some airlines:

- Air France Disabled Travelers
- Air Malta MEDIF
- Alitalia MEDIF
- ANA MEDIF
- Austrian Airlines MEDIF
- Cathay Pacific Special Needs
- Certificates; Swiss International Airlines Special Assistance
- JAL MEDIF; JAL Medical Information Form Instructions
- KLM Air Travel for Physically Challenged Passengers
- Lufthansa Travel Without Barriers
- Swiss International Airlines Medical

### Air Ambulance

It is difficult to predict the cost of a private air ambulance charter. Pricing factors include the location of the emergency and the current location of the plane that will be used. If a plane is stationed in the area or is "dead heading" back to base (returning empty from a previous trip), the cost will be less. Fees include medical staff and can be up to \$100,000 or more. The family may wish to call several companies before hiring one.

#### Medaire

Corporate HQ Tel: 480-333-3700  
Director of Operations: 602-317-1466  
Medaire's 24/7 GlobalLifeline  
Telephone: 800-856-8200 or 480-333-3595  
FAX: 480-333-3592  
Website: [www.medaire.com](http://www.medaire.com)

#### Phoenix Air

100 Phoenix Drive, SW  
Cartersville, Georgia 30120  
Telephone: 800-334-5360  
770-387-2000  
FAX: 770-386-3053  
Website: [phoenixair.com](http://phoenixair.com)

#### Medjet

Birmingham International Airport  
4900 69th Street North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35206  
Also in Washington, DC, New York and Atlanta  
Telephone: 800-963-3538  
205-595-6626  
FAX: 800-863-3538  
Website: [medjetassist.com](http://medjetassist.com)

#### SOS International

Alarm Center, Philadelphia, PA  
Immediate Assistance: 215-942-8226  
Telephone: 1-800-523-8930 or 1-215-942-8000  
FAX: 215-244-9617  
Website: [internationalsos.com](http://internationalsos.com)

### U.S. Air Force Medical Evacuation

U.S. Air Force medevacs are available only in very limited circumstances. They are generally prohibitively expensive for private citizens and are rarely used. The cost of U.S. Air Force Medevacs is based on flying hours from point of origin to destination via pick-up point and back to destination. This fee ranges from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per hour, depending on the aircraft. If the flight is a scheduled USAF medevac flight, the cost is usually three times that of a first class commercial fare.