



# NASA 2005 Safety and Health Managers Meeting

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## ***Medical Clearance for Foreign Travel***

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# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

Medical clearance for foreign travel is not a new requirement, but one that was largely ignored by travelers prior to institution of Travel Manger and implementation of the whole full cost and accounting process



# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

## Historical Foreign Travel Process

- NASA foreign travel dramatically increased over the past decade
- Previous arrangements with the State Department for medical assistance insufficient
- State Department differentiated between short and long-term temporary duty assignments



# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

## State Dept. Foreign Travel Process

- Model for most Federal Agencies
- Only employees on long-term temporary duty eligible to receive free/supplemental coverage under program
- State Department medical clearance exam good for 2 years



# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

## History of Medical Evacuation Process

- If emergency service required, process would depend on the level of medical care available within the country
- Prior to SOS contract depended upon State Dept for assistance with evacuations



# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

## Special Consideration for Russian Travel

Prior to JSC establishing the NASA clinic in Russia, the significant increase in Russian travel prompted the need for special arrangements for medical services



# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

- After implementation of SOS contract, problems persisted
- Key players (OCHMO, CFO, and External Relations) get together to develop and end-to-end foreign travel process



# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

## Re-Engineering Objectives

- Streamline process to support “One NASA”
- Provide all impacted groups with better tools
- Document new procedures





# Foreign Travel Medical Clearance

## Current Status

Never has one well-intentioned policy change--for the good of the whole--been so misunderstood and resisted by so many



# Why Create the Policy?

Medical Clearance policy is the logical demonstration that NASA OCHMO places a priority on the welfare of its employees

- **The Agency is responsible for ensuring the health of its travelers on official foreign travel**
- **Reduction of need for medical interventions associated with any distance travel (e.g. DVTs, localized outbreaks)**
- **Enables identification of potential interaction with individual health history for a specific region**
- **Is the “right” thing to do**