

1) What is the purpose of Midshipmen Health & Emergency Medical Services (MHEMS)?

- a) The mission of Midshipmen Health & Emergency Medical Services is to optimize and maintain Midshipmen health in support of successful education and graduation of licensed Merchant Marine officers of exemplary character so they meet medical criteria required to serve America's marine transportation and defense needs in peace and war. We are here to provide and/or support all healthcare needs for all Midshipmen so that they may continue to meet the medical standards necessary for graduation. That translates to our doing everything we can to assist Midshipmen with any health concern so they can maintain their ability to graduate, and we will do so by accessing every possible resource available in order to attain that goal.
- b) Just as Midshipmen are required to meet basic academic requirements to be commissioned, licensed with USCG and graduate from USMMA, Midshipmen also are required to maintain basic medical standards for the same reasons. Generally, this means you must maintain the medical standards required at your time of acceptance and approval from DoDMERB (Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board). Midshipmen Health & Emergency Medical Services (MHEMS) is responsible for the overall management of the Midshipmen medical, dental, behavioral health/counseling and emergency services. MHEMS works to help Midshipmen maintain all medical standards for United States Coast Guard Licensing and United States Naval Commissioning requirements. MHEMS provides care to meet all the standards as set forth in The Code of Federal Regulations, 46 C.F.R. §310.56 which dictates the ongoing continuing requirement for USMMA Midshipmen to meet the standards set forth in Department of Defense Instruction "6130.03, Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Military Services."

2) What services does MHEMS offer to students?

- a) MHEMS provides medical and dental care for Midshipmen at no charge. The staff is comprised of a Health Care Administrator, board certified Physicians, fully trained and credentialed Physician's Assistants, a Registered Nurse, Nutritionist, Dental Hygienist, a Clinical Psychologist, a Counselor, EMT Supervisor, and medically trained office support personnel. Healthcare services are grouped into the following categories:
  - i) Medicine: professional on-site services include routine sea year, graduation, and limited specialty military training physical assessments; medical laboratory procedures; immunizations (required for sea year clearance); treatment of routine illnesses; assistance with prescribed medications and pharmaceutical supplies; management of / assistance with care received at hospital-based and off-site specialty providers; public health / prevention education; nutrition and wellness; assistance with medical insurance matters.

- ii) Dentistry: professional on-site services include general dentistry, dental hygiene and annual oral evaluations, removable retainers, assistance with prescribed medications and pharmaceutical supplies, management of care at off-site specialty providers.
  - iii) Midshipmen Counseling and Personal Development (MCPD): individual or group counseling sessions for maintaining personal wellness and development. Programs include alcohol and substance abuse prevention education. Coordinate the training of EMS Squad on how to respond appropriately to suspected cases of violent assaults provided by Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) certified nurse educators.
  - iv) Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/ Emergency Medical Technician (EMT): 24-hour Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coverage for Midshipmen, faculty, staff, and visitors, through the Midshipmen EMS program, with support provided by local emergency services. All Midshipmen who participate in the EMS program are New York State trained & certified Emergency Medical Technicians.
- 3) Are midshipmen required to pay for services at MHEMS?
- a) All services provided on-site by MHEMS are free of charge to Midshipmen.
- 4) Are midshipmen required to visit MHEMS?
- a) Just as Midshipmen are required to meet basic academic requirements to be commissioned, licensed with USCG and graduate from USMMA, Midshipmen also are required to maintain basic medical standards for the same reasons. Generally, this means you must maintain the medical standards required at your time of acceptance and approval from DoDMERB (Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board). Midshipmen are required to keep their healthcare status up-to-date and current, as per Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03, Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Military Services. MHEMS maintains Midshipmen Health Records and submits medical clearance by the Chief Medical Officer and the Senior Dental Officer to DOD and USCG for processing commissioning and licensing/mariner documents. Midshipmen are required to see a MHEMS provider after sustaining any injury, or after receiving any medical services from any provider anywhere and at any time. i.e. Sea Year incidents, sports-related injuries on or off campus, medical/dental care received while at home during breaks, physical therapy provided by Department of Athletics staff.
- 5) How do midshipmen make an appointment at MHEMS?
- a) In-person, by calling MHEMS at 516-726-5680 or by emailing [medical@usmma.edu](mailto:medical@usmma.edu).

- 6) If a student is admitted to a hospital, will parents or guardians of the student be notified by the academy?
- a) MHEMS will contact the parents or guardians of Midshipmen following this protocol:
- i) In the event of illness or injury to Midshipman who have not attained the legal age to consent or give permission for treatment/care on their behalf (less than 18 years of age), all healthcare providers are required to inform a parent/guardian without prior consent from Midshipman.
  - ii) Midshipmen who have reached the legal age to consent or give permission on their behalf (is 18 years old or older, can give their consent or decline to share their medical information. MHEMS requires a valid Authorization for Disclosure of Medical/Dental Health Information form be on file before we contact anyone. The Privacy Act of 1996 applies, as well as the regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, 45 CFR Part 160 and 164. There are rare circumstances when The Federal Education Rights Protection Act (FERPA) will take precedence over HIPAA. Generally speaking, when there is a legitimate need for non-medical USMMA senior officials to have access to information from medical, such information can be released without the Midshipman's prior consent. This usually applies to medical situations which are impacting on a Midshipman's ability to meet educational criteria such as academics, ability to fulfill sea duty assignments or projects, etc. MHEMS considers the privacy of our patients, our Midshipmen, to be our most top priority and we respect and protect this information to the full extent available to us. Once information is released under the aforementioned legal conditions, we make every effort to remind those to which information was shared that they are obligated to use the information only for the management of administrative decisions related to academic performance. The information is still subject to proper protection and assurances that it will not be shared with anyone without a legitimate need to know and the information should never be used for any other purposes other than the administrative decision needs for Midshipman matriculation.
- 7) Are serious injuries treated at MHEMS? If not, where are midshipmen relocated for treatment?
- a) When medical care needs rise above the scope of on-site services that MHEMS provides, higher level of care is provided by North Shore University Hospital, part of the highly-respected North Shore - Long Island Jewish Health System located less than 5 miles from the Academy. A multitude of various healthcare providers are also located in the surrounding community who specialize in many common specialty care needs should such a need for these services arise. The Midshipmen are responsible for cost related to care that goes beyond the services available onsite at USMMA through Patten Health Clinic.

- 8) If an injury or illness occurs outside of MHEMS operating hours, do midshipmen have access to emergency treatment? Who is responsible for ensuring adequate coverage?
- a) The Midshipmen EMS program managed and operated under MHEMS Supervision & with support provided by local emergency services, operates a 24-hour Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coverage/watch team for Midshipmen. This service is staffed completely by Midshipmen who have completed the NY State Emergency Services Technician educational certification criteria. Faculty, staff, and visitors who require assistance anywhere at any time on campus are covered by this service. The EMS/EMT program operates under the license of the MHEMS Chief Medical Officer, is supervised by an EMT Supervisor, and is led by Regimental Officers.
- 9) If MHEMS makes a referral to an outside health care provider, which party is responsible for the payment?
- a) Medical care needs requiring care that cannot be provided on site at MHEMS will require the use of private insurance. Uncovered medical expenses do occur and can be very costly if there is no medical insurance in place. There are exceptions which would make all expenses, including onsite care that is normally free of charge, solely the responsibility of the Midshipmen on a personal out of pocket basis. Generally, these exceptions are associated with injury, illness or diagnosis resulting from a pre-existing condition, a non-disclosed condition, or any medical condition which is incongruent with Academy regulations & policies. For this reason, all Candidates or Midshipmen who are not presently covered by a primary health care policy that meets USMMA coverage requirements must obtain coverage. Information explaining the USMMA insurance coverage requirements is provided during the USMMA annual open enrollment period for insurance. Notifications for when the open enrollment period begins are communicated to all Midshipmen at the appropriate time. Midshipmen will be able to obtain insurance coverage through any of the following means:
- i) Through the use of an existing insurance plan (e.g. a family plan, a “self and spouse plan” or self-only plan) that covers the candidate or Midshipman; provided that the policy meets the minimum coverage requirements established by USMMA or,
- ii) By obtaining the Academy sponsored Student Health Insurance Policy (SHIP) which meets all the minimum coverage requirements established by USMMA. This plan is managed by The Allen J Flood Companies.
- 10) If external health care services are recommended but not required of the student (example: follow up appointments not provided by the clinic), who is responsible for payment?
- a) All expenses associated with elective care or care that is necessary for graduation requirements which is not available onsite at USMMA is the sole responsibility of the Midshipman. There are

exceptions to this on a case by case basis and always an exception when the care is covered under Federal Workers Compensation (in the line of duty incidents).

11) Are dental services offered to midshipmen?

- a) Professional on-site services include general dentistry, dental hygiene and annual oral evaluations, removable retainers, assistance with prescribed medications and pharmaceutical supplies, management of care at off-site specialty providers.
- b) Any and all elective, and/or care beyond the scope of care to meet all the standards as set forth in The Code of Federal Regulations, 46 C.F.R. §310.56, is the sole responsibility of the Midshipman.

12) How often are midshipmen required to utilize the dental services?

- a) Midshipmen are required to utilize the on-site dental services to in-process during INDOC, for Sea Year and Commissioning Physicals, for routine / emergency injury care, and after receiving any dental services from any other provider (i.e. at home during breaks, sea year deployment) upon returning to the Academy.

13) Are fillings, orthodontia, wisdom tooth extraction, etc. offered at MHEMS?

- a) General dentistry services include fillings, removable retainers (orthodontia), and minor extractions on a case-by-case basis.

14) Are vision benefits (ophthalmology) offered at MHEMS?

- a) Basic vision testing and color vision testing are offered at MHEMS. All other vision services are referred to local providers according to the insurance plan that each individual Midshipman has.

15) If a student's eyesight worsens while at the academy to the point where vision correction is required, what is covered by the school?

- a) Vision correction is not covered by the USMMA / MHEMS.

16) If a student acquires a medically disqualifying condition while attending the academy, will he/she be immediately dismissed?

- a) No. Every Medically disqualifying issue is unique and every effort is made to preserve & maximize a potential midshipman's ongoing contributions. MHEMS' first and highest priority is to optimize the health & well-being of the Regiment of Midshipmen entrusted to our care. Each case is reviewed and managed on a case-by-case basis with a treatment plan to return to fit-for-duty status as quickly as possible and to the extent the medical condition allows. Should the care plan include a Medical Leave of Absence, then the Chief Medical Officer recommends such

leave made available to the Midshipman through the Commandant of Midshipmen's office. Midshipmen Health Services understands that similar to a problem passing required academics for graduation, not be able to meet required medical standards can also be a source of serious concern. Some Midshipmen think of Health Services as an impediment rather than the advocate we are. Health Services is the "tutor" you might similarly seek for academic help.

- b) MHEMS coordinates the review of each medical condition with DoDMERB, The Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED,) and USCG Medical. Conditions that are designated "No Waiver" status are communicated to the Midshipmen and appropriate parties on campus following all privacy rules and requirements. USMMA Chief Medical Officer then recommends an appropriate medical opinion to the Commandant of Midshipmen for action. Hand-off of care is also coordinated with the effected Midshipman's provider back home as required.

17) If it is determined that the above condition can be treated, is this treatment covered by the school?

- a) Treatment for any condition that might be treatable on site is automatically provided. Anything beyond the scope of practice/capability of the clinic staff is referred to specialist providers and is subject to the use of required Midshipmen health insurance to cover the costs of this off site healthcare.

18) If the condition cannot be treated by MHEMS, will the student be offered treatment elsewhere?

- a) Treatment for any condition that is beyond the scope of practice/capability of the clinic staff is referred to specialist providers. This off-site care is covered by the Midshipman's individual insurance plan.

19) Does the academy offer or endorse health insurance options?

- a) An insurance plan is offered through Academy sponsored Student Health Insurance Policy (SHIP) which meets all the minimum coverage requirements established by USMMA and is managed by The Allen J Flood Companies.
- b) Notifications for when the open enrollment periods are communicated to all Midshipmen at the appropriate time. Please refer to [USMMA Student Health Insurance](#) on our USMMA.edu website.

20) Are students covered by academy insurance while on leave? On TMs? At Sea?

- a) Coverage for sports related activity, Sea Duty and Team Movements is available under the USMMA sponsored insurance plan or a Midshipman's private health insurance plan that meets USMMA Health Insurance requirements. However, most sports related, sea duty and Team Movement activity at the present time would bypass private insurance and be covered as an in the line of duty event. That translates to being covered under Federal Workers Compensation

Insurance and not private insurance. There would be an infrequent need to use private insurance in some exceptions. Examples of exceptions would be if someone became injured while performing a non-duty related, unofficial & unapproved activity while involved in a Team Movement, sea duty assignment or sporting event. Insurance would have to take the place of workers compensation in such an example.