



Information for doctors on the new screening standards for liquids, aerosols and gels¹ on international flights

This advisory is to let you know that from **31 March 2007**, passengers flying internationally will be limited in the quantity of liquids, aerosols and gels they can carry in their hand luggage. They will only be able to take liquids, aerosols and gels on-board in containers of no more than 100ml in volume (note that 100ml is the maximum container size, not the volume of the contents). They will be able to carry other supplies in their checked bags.

These containers will have to be placed in a re-sealable transparent plastic bag of 1 litre in volume (approximately 20cm by 20cm in size) and presented separately at the security screening point.

An exemption for **essential medicines, baby products and dietary supplements** in liquid, aerosol or gel form² greater than 100ml is in place. These items are exempt in quantities that are *reasonable* for the duration of the flight(s).

You may be asked about these changes by patients intending to travel overseas. Further information can be found at www.flysmart.govt.nz.

You may also be asked to:

- **package exempt items in *reasonable* quantities** - A *reasonable* quantity can be defined as the amount of medication required for the patient to safely arrive at their destination while taking into account unexpected delays, missed connections, lost luggage or any other circumstances that may cause difficulties in accessing medication.
- **provide patients with an appropriate form of documentation**, such as a letter, supporting their need to carry exempt items with them and identifying the medication carried.

If a patient of yours is intending to travel overseas and you think these changes will affect them, please advise them of how they can comply with the guidelines for exempt items. This may involve providing them with a letter identifying the medicine(s) they are carrying so they can be easily identified.

Patients should be advised to carry any such documentation with them when travelling. When a passenger reaches the screening point this information may be requested by aviation security officers to help them determine whether the items are exempt. They may also check to ensure that the name on the medicine label matches the name on the passenger's boarding pass and passport.

When in doubt a patient should be encouraged to carry as much information with them as practicable. This will reduce any chance of delays or confusion at the security screening point.

¹ Gels include creams and ointments

² Exempt items may include prescription and non-prescription medicines, medical devices and disability products, baby products, contact lens solution, and dietary supplements in liquid or gel form.

Frequently asked questions on the new measures

What types of liquids, aerosols and gels do the new measures cover?

These measures apply to all items that can be **poured, sprayed** or **smear**ed. This includes any item that would normally be liquid, aerosol or gel at room temperature. Examples include:

- creams, ointments and waxes;
- liquid/solid mixtures; and
- the contents of pressurised containers.

How will the new measures limiting liquids, aerosols and gels on-board aircraft affect me as a doctor?

From **31 March 2007**, passengers flying internationally will be limited to the quantity of liquids, aerosols and gels that they can carry on-board an aircraft in their hand luggage. The government recognises that some passengers will have to carry **essential medical items/medicines** on-board with them, and that these may need to be in quantities greater than 100ml.

From 31 March 2007, doctors may be asked by their patients to provide them with an appropriate form of documentation supporting their need to carry exempt items with them and identifying the medication carried.

What items will be exempt from the new restrictions?

The following items will be **exempt**:

- **essential prescribed medicines** - including angina spray, asthma inhalers, insulin and clotting factors;
- **essential non-prescribed medicines** - such as cough syrup and throat and nasal spray;
- **children's medicines**;
- **contact lens solution**; and
- **dietary supplements/foods in a liquid or gel form.**

Other **essential** medical items, such as blood products, gel-filled external breast prostheses, colostomy bags, and personal supplemental oxygen are also exempt from the restrictions.

Please note this list is provided as a guide and is not meant to be exhaustive. Other essential medical items will be permitted; however, airport security officers may ask passengers why they need to carry these items on-board with them.

What types of supporting documentation should passengers carry with them?

When passengers reach the screening point, aviation security officers may ask to see supporting documentation. The purpose of this documentation is to help them establish whether a legitimate need exists for the passenger to be carrying these items on-board the aircraft.

Useful forms of **supporting documentation** may include:

- a letter from a patient's doctor supporting their need to carry exempt items;
- an identification card; or
- a medicine/prescription label that matches the name on the passenger's boarding pass/ passport.

Please note these are examples of useful forms of supporting documentation. This list is not exhaustive and other forms of documentation may be accepted if they effectively demonstrate a passenger's need to carry a specific item.

If I am writing a letter for a patient what information will I need to include?

If one of your patients asks you to write them a letter we recommend you include the following details:

- the patient's name;
- medication needs and the quantities of medication required; and
- your name, your Medical Council Registration number; and
- contact details in case any information needs to be verified.

The letter will also need to be signed and date stamped.

Will there be restrictions on the quantity of these items that passengers can carry?

Yes. Aviation security officers may also make an assessment on what constitutes a **reasonable quantity** of medicines/dietary supplements for the duration of a passenger's flight. We recommend that doctors include an indication of what amounts of medication/dietary supplements their patient will require for the duration of their flight. This should also take into account any potential delays, flight diversions, missed connections and lost luggage.

It is also worth noting that the larger the quantity of exempt items being taken on-board by a passenger, the greater the likelihood that the passenger will be asked to demonstrate their need for these items.

When in doubt a patient should be encouraged to carry as much information with them as practicable. This will reduce any chance of delays or confusion at the security screening point.

Where can I find more information about the new screening processes?

More information can be found on the government's official Flysmart website at www.flysmart.govt.nz.