

Medical Tourism & Me

Thinking about going abroad for surgery or other medical care? This is referred to as medical tourism. Here's some important information for you to consider before deciding whether or not to become a medical tourist.

My Health

1. Did you know that not all countries have the same hospital quality control standards we use here in Canada?

Before you decide whether to go, contact the Canadian Blood Services Agency to ask if they are aware of any blood supply or storage concerns in the country you are thinking about visiting.

2. Did you know that your medical record here in Canada should include your entire health history, even for medical care given in other countries?

Before you decide whether to go, ask the hospital you are planning to book your procedure with if they will give you records in English or French to bring home with you.

3. Did you know that diseases contracted abroad could be brought back home with you?

Before you decide whether to go, visit a travel clinic and make sure you get all recommended vaccines.

My Home

1. Did you know that some types of medical care require follow-up appointments or aftercare treatment?

Before you decide whether to go, make sure that you will be able to get the aftercare or follow-up appointments you need by talking to your regular doctor here about this.

2. Did you know that before you consent to any medical care you should know the risks of the procedure?

Before you decide whether to go, be sure to obtain information on procedure risks, ideally from a trusted source.

3. Did you know that your own decision to go abroad for medical care could actually impact other Canadians as well?

Before you decide whether to go, consider that if you experience medical complications you may need to be treated for these in Canada and that doing so may lessen other patients' access to this medical care.

My Journey

1. Did you know that not all countries have the same patient and consumer protection laws we do here in Canada?

Before you decide whether to go, learn about malpractice laws in the countries you are considering visiting and make certain that your rights as a patient will be protected.

2. Did you know that some countries offer medical procedures to international patients that you cannot get here in Canada?

Before you decide whether to go, find out if the procedure you are considering has been shown to be safe and effective by a reputable agency.

3. Did you know that health care is a scarce resource around the world?

Before you decide whether to go, inform yourself about the most pressing health care challenges in the countries you are thinking about visiting and consider whether medical tourism may help or worsen them.

Be informed and share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences with others.

For more information go to: www.sfu.ca/medicaltourism/guide