

May 2014

Dear Clients and Friends:

A friend of mine told me about a young woman he knows, whose life was saved by travel assistance insurance. She was vacationing overseas and happened to be on an island when she had an accident resulting in serious brain trauma. The insurance company flew in a plane and evacuated her to a hospital; otherwise, she would not have survived.

I'd never heard of travel assistance insurance and decided to check it out. An internet search turned up lots of companies offering this coverage. The cost seems reasonable and depends on your age, typically \$4 a day up to age 70, somewhat higher as you approach 80, then \$12 a day ages 81 to 85. Over 85, it may be difficult to find.

Is this a good deal? Medicare normally doesn't pay for health care or supplies you get outside the United States, or on a cruise ship more than six hours from a U.S. port. Most Medigap plans will pay for foreign travel emergency care, but only cover 80% of the billed charges with a lifetime cap of \$50,000. Compare that with travel assistance insurance, which covers 100% of the charges and will make direct payments to a doctor or hospital up to \$100,000. Plus, they get you where you need to go. That could mean evacuation from a remote spot to a well-equipped hospital, or even returning you home.

Of course there are some conditions and exclusions, but nothing that should keep you from buying this insurance when you travel abroad. The coverage can be purchased online up to one day before you leave. Or you can call any of the companies that sell these policies, ask your questions and pay over the phone with a credit card.

I'm a believer in insurance. It's one of the best ways to stay out of trouble.

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford