

[EXTRACT]

Medical insurer offers security service

More than 90,000 expats insured with a particular medical insurance company will henceforth be able to call up a security service to help them in tight spots.

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Holders of policies bought from InterGlobal will be able to get telephone advice about their personal security, pre-travel advice and emergency evacuation or repatriation in life-threatening situations, such as civil unrest or natural disaster.

InterGlobal claims it is the only private medical insurer to give security advice to its clients, which it has achieved by linking up with red24, who are global security specialists.

However, other insurers may offer similar contracted-in services to evacuate patients or, in some cases, extract policyholders from dangerous situations.

On a less dramatic level, InterGlobal recently used red24 to help a policyholder with a seriously ill child, who was stranded at Moscow airport and another who had misplaced her passport during civil unrest in Moldova.

Kerry-Ann Turvey, a senior marketing executive at InterGlobal, said: "Expatriates travel the world and need the reassurance that they can access instant advice if they get caught up in a major political incident or natural disaster. That's why we have added red24 to all of our plans."

British-based red24 has helped clients in difficult situations including Hurricane Dean, which hit Mexico in 2007 killing 45, the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, and recent political unrest in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar.

Two levels of red24 cover are available to InterGlobal policyholders. The AdviceLine service, worth £80 singly, is available on all UltraCare Select and Standard plans. It provides access to a personal security adviser via a telephone hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week, tailored travel advice and online security information for 170 countries.

UltraCare Plus and Comprehensive clients get access to red24's ActionResponse, valued at £1,250, which also includes emergency evacuation and repatriation from life threatening situations, accompanied when necessary by a security specialist.

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Source: Telegraph.co.uk website (17 July 2009)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/5852044/Medical-insurer-offers-security-service.html>