

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS TRAVELLING WITH  
INTERNATIONAL TEAMS ABROAD

In order to obviate embarrassment due to unfortunate publicity, the following notes may be of help:-

1. All comments regarding illness or injury to players should be made via the Team Manager, or Member in charge of the party, and never directly to the Press.
2. No detailed reference to treatments or drugs used should be made.
3. It is inevitable that the doctor's name will receive mention, but, apart from the name of the city or town from which he practises, no further details should be given, and no reference made to any particular hospital connections, or specialty, with which he is involved.
4. Photographs should be avoided at all costs, even those in which the touring group as a whole are involved. This, of course, will not always be possible, but every reasonable effort should be made in this connection.

General Comment: In broad terms, a doctor is travelling as professional advisor to a group of 16-25 patients, and is not, therefore, strictly speaking, part of the active international party, with its attendant glamour and limelight.

These notes are meant purely as guidance for the inexperienced, and may prevent considerable distress from embarrassing publicity at a later date.

They were drawn up by an Honorary Medical Adviser of the Football Association in consultation with the Medical Defence Union, and have the approval of the Executive Committee of the B.A.S.M.