

August 1, 2024

Dear ANA (All Nippon Airways, Japan) Guest Room Center,



Thank you for your reply regarding the medical liability of a doctor providing medical care on board ANA (Japan's largest airline) aircraft during international flights.

As an internist, I work full-time at a long-term care hospital and regularly work part-time at two general hospitals in the Tokyo metropolitan area. And I am conducting research on "Sports and Medical Education." However, when traveling abroad on business, it is difficult situation for me to respond to medical requests from airlines regarding sudden passenger illnesses or injuries on international flights, while on board an airplane, even as a medical doctor and Doctor of Medicine from National Mie University in Japan.

Medical care is required based on the judgment of whether a trusting relationship can be established between the doctor and the first-time patient, as well as the patient's family. In cases outside the doctor's specialty, there is a consideration of the high risk of costly medical lawsuits abroad. Furthermore, as ANA Chairperson Koji SHIBATA (Bachelor of Foreign Languages, National Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) and ANA President Shinichi INOUE (Bachelor of Law, Private Waseda University) are aware, it is troubling to be exposed to accusations of "misdiagnosis" from second-rate or third-rate private universities in Japan, such as Private Keio University (founded by "white supremacist" Yukichi FUKUZAWA), through anonymous slander. This practice is against the rules at prestigious national universities with a history and tradition.

In my hometown of Tsu City, Mie Prefecture in Japan, there were doctors from private Juntendo University and private Nihon University who also once accused other doctors of "misdiagnosis." These issues caused by "mediocre (*bonsai*, below deviation score 50)" doctors became problematic from both academic and ethical perspectives. Referring to someone as "not a doctor" or calling their practice a "greenhorn's clinical practice" is also unnecessary in the tense medical environment of Japanese national universities. Additionally, at the training session of the Japan Society of Health Evaluation and Promotion held in Tokyo on July 21 last month, I even saw a "*Yabuhebi* (snake in the bush)" lecturer who used elementary-level Japanese, repeatedly saying "*chatte*," "*chatte*."

On the other hand, in the USA, where air travel by private airlines has become a nearly fatality-free mode of transportation in recent years, addressing medical troubles on board an aircraft may require emergency (priority) landings and requesting ambulances to stand by at airports. As prestigious national university doctors, we must consider these options. And ultimately, as was the case on flight NH 180 (ANA, Tokyo to Mexico) on July 4, 2024, when I attached my English business card stating "Doctor and Chairperson of Sports" and "School: National Mie University Graduate School," and relayed a message to the captain via the flight attendant, the final decision rests with the captain, who is the highest authority on the aircraft.

I appreciate your continued support.

Yukihisa SHIDA (Residence: Tokyo)
M.D. and Ph.D. from National Mie University in Japan



Roppongi Hills Club, Japan Member and ANA Super Flyers (Star Alliance Gold) Member



With Jamaican Ambassador Shorna-Kay M. RICHARDS, who also served as Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, at the Ambassador Nights “ONE LOVE” at the Tokyo American Club on June 15, 2024

2024年8月1日

ANA 客室センター御中

国際線飛行中の全日空（日本最大の航空会社）航空機機内での医療におきます 医師医療賠償責任につきまして、ご返信をいただきまして有難うございました。

私は内科医として、日常東京首都圏で療養型病院にて常勤勤務し、2ヵ所の総合病院で定期非常勤勤務をしています。また「Sports と医学の教育」に関する研究を行っていますところですが、海外出張時、国際線機内での乗客の突発的な体調不良、外傷に対する医療に関しましての、航空会社からの医療要請に応じさせていただくのは、国立三重大学の医師、医学博士としましても難しい状況です。

医師と初対面の患者さん及び患者さんの家族との間に信頼関係が構築されるのかどうか、という判断を基にしました医療が求められまして、専門外等の Case によりましては海外での高額な医療訴訟の Risk が勘案されます。さらには芝田浩二会長（国立東京外国語大学外国語学学士）、井上慎一社長（私立早稲田大学法学士）も知ってみえます様に、特殊な空間、限られた情報、わずかな医療人員と医療機器での国立三重大学医学博士による まれな Case Study としまして、後日私立慶應大学（創設者：「白人至上主義」福澤諭吉さんお一人）など日本の二流、三流私立大学からの「誤診呼ばわり」（ここ、そこ、あそこなど匿名での悪口にて、誤診呼ばわりしない歴史と伝統のある名門国立大学においては Rule 破りです）に晒されますことは悩ましい限りです。

私の地元三重県津市にも昔「誤診呼ばわり」をされる私立順天堂大学及び私立日本大学ご出身の「凡才（偏差値 50 未満）」先生方がみえましたが、やはり学術的、倫理的な面より問題になりました。

「（医者でなく）『者』呼ばわり」や「お坊ちゃま呼ばわり」も、国立大学の緊張感のある臨床においては必要ありません。また先月 7 月 21 日に東京都内で開催されました日本総合健診医学会の研修会では、「ちゃって」「ちゃって」と小学生程度の日本語でみえる「やぶ蛇」講師までお見掛けしています。

その一方、America では近年ほぼ人が亡くならない交通機関となりました民間航空機内の医療 Trouble に対しましては、必要に応じて緊急（優先）着陸及び空港での救急車待機要請も、私達国立大学医師の立場から検討させていただかなくてはなりません。そして最終的には、2024 年 7 月 4 日 NH180 便（成田発 Mexico 行）全日空機内にて、「Doctor and Chairperson of Sports」「School: National Mie University Graduate School」記載の英字名刺を添えて私からの伝言を客室乗務員から機長にお伝えいただきました様に、航空機の最高責任者でみえる機長のご決断になります。

今後共、どうぞよろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

志田幸久（東京都）

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六本木 Hills Club 及び ANA Super Flyers 会員です