




# Equipment

**Multiple (1-2)**

Oropharyngeal Airway (3 sizes)  
 Self-inflating manual resuscitator device  
 Venturi mask (3 sizes)  
 AED  
 Stethoscope  
 Atropine  
 Epinephrine (1:1000) (1:10,000)  
 Glucose (D50%)  
 Lidocaine  
 Suction canisters  
 Pulse oximeter  
 Blood pressure cuff  
 Manual resuscitator  
 Suction canisters  
 Roughly 30 items including  
 Ketamine, Diazepam, Fentanyl, etc.




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# Resources + Limitations

**Crew + Passengers**


- Crew: trained to assist, USE OF AED
- Passengers: H&P (Interpreter/Situation), hold IV bags/blankets

**Ground based medical services<sup>2)</sup>**

- Medical information + Decision making
- Invaluable information about closest facilities!

**Limitations**

- NOISE → Communication, Stethoscope
- SPACE → difficult to work/position/transport
- PRIVACY → Blankets
- LIGHT




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# Medico-Legal Considerations

- Introduction, H&P, consent, document in writing
- Communicate with Crew + Ground based medical services
- Aviation Medical Assistance Act<sup>5)</sup>**
- Give honest recommendation
- "An individual shall not be liable for damages in any action brought in a Federal or State court arising out of the performance of the individual's duties as a volunteer or as a member of the crew of an aircraft in providing assistance in the case of an in-flight medical emergency."**
- Some airlines require flight personnel to handle AED
- "Do not pronounce patients officially dead"**
- such assistance is guilty of gross negligence or willful misconduct."**
- DO NOT FEAR LITIGATION FOR HELP
- Other countries might prosecute the DENIAL of help<sup>6)</sup>




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## Conclusions

- Be mentally prepared to be asked for help
- Anesthesiologists have an excellent skill set<sup>2)</sup>
- Do not worry about LITIGATION
- Patients and Crew are thankful
- Getting drunk should be the last resort

### References

1) Graf, Shueben, Pump: In-Flight Medical Emergencies, Dtsch Arztebl Int 2012; 109(37): 591-602; DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2012.0591  
2) Bhatia, Hernandez, Bhatia: Management of in-flight emergencies, Anesthesiology 2008; 108:748-56  
3) <http://www.high-altitude-medicine.com/haC2/ha26.htm>  
4) Kim Y, Bhatia S, Rouse A, Taylor RS: The association between air travel and deep vein thrombosis: Systematic review & meta-analysis. BMC Cardiovasc Disord 2004, 4:7  
5) Aviation Medical Assistance Act (1998)  
6) BGB, paragraph 323c



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