

Are you thinking about accompanying a medical tourist abroad as a caregiver?



Accompanying someone who is planning to have surgery or other medical procedures abroad can be both challenging and rewarding. Here's some important information for you to consider before deciding whether or not you should do this.

My Health

You will need to provide a variety of care activities

Before you decide whether to go, understand that you may have to administer medicines, consult with doctors, and provide other forms of care that you're not used to.

Caregiving can be strenuous and physically demanding

Before you decide whether to go, plan ahead for physical strain. Practice caregiving techniques (like proper assistive lifts), and avoid overly strenuous activities while abroad.

International travel may expose you to health risks

Before you decide whether to go, review your immunization history and visit a travel medical clinic to get vaccinated.

Patient Health

Familiarize yourself with the medical tourist's health

Before you decide whether to go, be aware that medical tourism clinic staff may ask you to report on symptom changes, pain levels, and improvements in patient health.

You may be required to make unexpected decisions

Before you decide whether to go, consider that you may need to make financial decisions on behalf of the medical tourist should unexpected care needs arise.

You may need to communicate on behalf of the medical tourist

Before you decide whether to go, communicate with the patient and patient coordinators at your destination facility to avoid misunderstanding the patient's health needs.

My Journey

You should gather a wide range of information

Before you decide whether to go, access available online resources and consider connecting with former medical tourists to understand your role as a caregiver.

You should familiarize yourself with travel logistics

Before you decide whether to go, become knowledgeable about flight, hotel, and ground transportation bookings at the medical tourism destination.

Not all countries have the same health and safety procedures

Before you decide whether to go, ask questions about the medical procedure, and the facility's quality and safety protocols (e.g., security procedures, hand washing).

Be informed and share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences with others.