

The jet crew

Rega comes to the aid of people in distress around the clock not just in Switzerland, but all over the world. Its jet crews are on standby day and night to fly seriously ill or injured patients back home. A jet crew always comprises at least two pilots, a flight physician and an intensive care nurse. The organisation of a repatriation mission is often complex, with each crew member performing their own specific tasks.



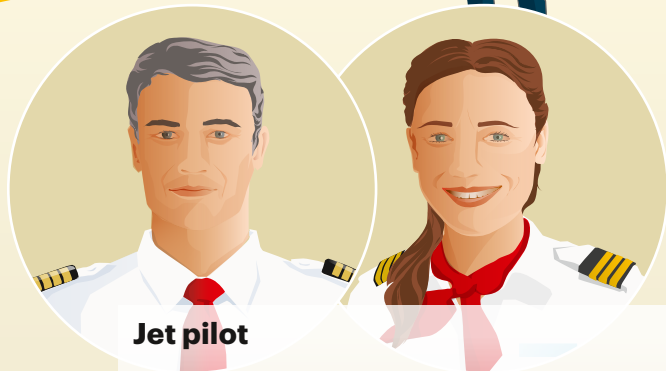
Operations Centre – where everything comes together

The Operations Centre at the Rega Centre serves as the hub for every jet mission. The following three professional groups work in shifts around the clock so that the Rega crews can fly patients back home:

Flight coordinator
They take the calls from patients or their relatives on Rega's international emergency number. The flight coordinators coordinate and organise each repatriation and act as contact persons for both external and internal bodies, such as the jet crew.

Medical consultant
They talk with the doctors on location, as well as with the patient and their next-of-kin. They then decide if repatriation is necessary, and if so, when and in what form.

Dispatcher
They calculate the flight routes of the Rega jets including any stopovers, obtain overflight permits and provide the pilots with all the necessary flight documents before takeoff.



Jet pilot

The Rega jet is always flown by two pilots, a commander and a co-pilot. The commander has overall responsibility for the mission. He ensures that the flights are performed safely and makes operational and aeronautical decisions. During the flight, the two-person team divides the tasks in the cockpit between them: the Pilot Flying is responsible for flying the aircraft and for making entries in the autopilot,

while the Pilot Monitoring monitors the flight instruments and other systems and maintains radio contact with air traffic control. The tasks of the jet pilots also encompass organising fuel during stopovers and assessing the weather conditions during the flight. Depending on the flying time and the total length of the mission, there may be up to four pilots on board, who take it in turns in the cockpit.



Intensive care nurse

Together with the flight physician, the intensive care nurse guarantees the provision of professional medical care – from the time the patient is put into their care abroad to when they are handed over at the Swiss destination hospital. In addition, they get the medical supplies ready before a mission, organise and prepare the food in the aircraft, and coordinate between the flight crew, medical crew and the partners involved, such as the ambulance services.



Flight physician

During the briefing prior to the mission, the flight physician receives all the key information about the patient. Before the flight, they check the medical equipment on board the Rega ambulance jet, such as the oxygen supply, the laboratory equipment for measurements, the ventilators and the defibrillator. At the hospital abroad, the flight physician consults with the doctors on location to ensure a smooth hand-over and optimal medical care during repatriation. The flight physician bears the medical responsibility for the mission.



You can find out more about how a repatriation operation from abroad is carried out at: www.repat.rega.ch