



BRIEFING

Expanding the emergency allocation criteria where a close relative has suffered a life-threatening medical event

Date:	8 November 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-1619

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response	Agree to expand emergency allocation categories 2e)i and 2e)iv (visiting a close relative with a terminal illness or end-stage disease) to include life-threatening medical event (including accidents) from 22 November 2021	12 November 2021

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kara Isaac	General Manager, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	
Privacy of natural persons	Manager, Allocation and Supply, MIQ Policy		✓
	Advisor, Allocation and Supply		

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



BRIEFING

Expanding the emergency allocation criteria where close relatives have suffered life-threatening medical incidents

Date:	8 November 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-1619

Purpose

This briefing seeks your agreement to expand emergency allocation categories 2e)i and 2e)iv (visiting a close relative with a terminal illness or end-stage disease) to include life-threatening medical events (including accidents) from 22 November 2021.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** emergency allocation categories 2e)i and 2e)iv currently apply to:

New Zealand citizens or residents:

i. entering New Zealand to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less), where timely travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System; OR

iv. who have travelled or are travelling to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less) and resides overseas, where timely return travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System.

Noted

- b **Note** that officials consider that expanding these categories to include life-threatening medical events is consistent with their underlying intent, which is to allow people to visit close relatives who may only have a short period to live.

Noted

- c **Agree** to update categories 2e)i and 2e)iv to read:

New Zealand citizens or residents:

i. entering New Zealand to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less) or has recently suffered a life-threatening medical event, where timely travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System; OR

iv. who have travelled or are travelling to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less) or has recently suffered a life-threatening medical event, and resides overseas, where timely return travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System.

Agree / Disagree

- d **Agree** that the definition of life-threatening medical event include both illness (e.g. serious cardiac events, strokes etc.) and accidents (e.g. serious car accident)

Agree / Disagree

e **Note** that based on previous applications, we expect that the increase in approvals from the expanded criteria will be under 10 people per month.

Noted

f **Note** that MBIE intends to implement this change on Monday 22 November 2021, concurrent with upcoming changes to the criteria for overseas New Zealanders with expiring visas [2122-1009/2 refers].

Noted

g **Agree** that this briefing be proactively released with appropriate withholdings under the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



Kara Isaac
General Manager
MIQ Policy, MBIE

8 / 11 / 2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

9 / 11 / 2021

Background

1. Emergency allocation categories 2e)i and 2e)iv currently apply to:

New Zealand citizens or residents:

i. entering New Zealand to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less), where timely travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System; OR

iv. who have travelled or are travelling to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less) and resides overseas, where timely return travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System.

2. Officials consider that expanding these categories to include life-threatening medical events is consistent with their underlying intent, which is to allow people to visit close relatives who may only have a short period to live. Examples include severe heart attacks or strokes, or less commonly, accidents such as drowning.

Updating category 2e

3. We propose to update categories 2e)i and 2e)iv to read:

New Zealand citizens or residents:

i. entering New Zealand to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less) or has recently suffered a life-threatening medical event, where timely travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System; OR

iv. who have travelled or are travelling to visit a close relative who is living with a terminal illness or end-stage disease (with a life expectancy of six months or less) or has recently suffered a life-threatening medical event, and resides overseas, where timely return travel is unlikely to be possible if the person books through the Managed Isolation Allocation System.

4. MBIE currently requires a letter from the relative's doctor, hospital or hospice confirming the relative living with a terminal illness or end stage disease. This evidence requirement would be updated to reflect the new criteria.
5. Based on previous applications, officials expect that the increase in approvals from the expanded criteria will be under 10 people per month. You recently agreed to increase the emergency allocation from 700 to 800 rooms per month [2122-1009/2 refers], given approvals have been trending upwards (384 applications were approved for the fortnight ending 24 October, up from 301 for the fortnight ending 10 October). Officials continue to monitor whether the emergency allocation remains sufficient to accommodate eligible applications.

Next steps

6. If you agree to this change, MBIE intends to implement it on Monday 22 November 2021, concurrent with upcoming changes to the criteria for overseas New Zealanders with expiring visas [2122-1009/2 refers].