

NSS Healthcare Barriers Work Group

A space-themed background featuring a view of Earth from space at the bottom, the Moon in the lower left, Mars in the upper right, and a satellite in the lower right. The sky is dark with stars.

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What is the Healthcare Barriers Work Group?

- PURPOSE 1: to identify and monitor stated Barrier Checklist Items
- PURPOSE 2: to recommend NSS volunteer efforts that can contribute to the removal of these Barrier Checklist Items
 - NSS Members can identify additional Barrier Checklist Items
- Ongoing discussion via the Internet

Every NSS Member is encouraged to be part of this process!

Barrier Checklist Item 1

Proposed Passenger Restrictions by the FAA

- The United States Federal Aviation Administration is considering the **establishment of medical requirements** that must be met by prospective public passengers desiring to travel into outer space
- While the **development of such guidelines is an appropriate safety measure...**
 - it is likely that such restrictions would have a **profound impact on future space tourism markets**
 - particularly if, as rumored, these requirements are **significantly more stringent** than medical guidelines imposed by NASA on its own astronaut corps.

Barrier Checklist Item 2

Perceived Risk of Space Activities

- The outer space environment is inherently problematic to human passengers desiring to travel into outer space because of:
 - the multiple effects of weightlessness on the human body
 - exposure to space radiation
- Despite over 40 years of spaceflight experience, such hazards are still incompletely understood
- Effective countermeasures have been inadequately researched
- This "gap" in the characterization, treatment and prevention of medical concerns in outer space may truly pose as a major "show-stopper" for future human space settlement

Workgroup highlights



- Commenced April, 2001
- 15 registrants as of 4/30/01
- In addition to the 2 Checklist items:
 - Treatment of chronic medical conditions following stabilization
 - SMS
 - Psych
 - Sample size for research
 - Micro-G PK
 - Antarctic rescue operations as analog to deep space remote rescue
- “Expert guests” to be invited

A composite image of space. In the foreground, the blue and white horizon of Earth is visible. Above it, the large, grey, cratered Moon is shown. In the background, the reddish-orange planet Mars is visible, along with a small satellite or space station orbiting Mars. The background is a dark starfield with a bright orange nebula or galaxy in the upper right.

Log on and register now!

<http://www.nss.org/rm2001/index.html>