

Airlines tackle DVT fear

By **Danielle Demetriou** (Filed: 01/04/2006)

Emirates has installed a sophisticated new medical system on its aircraft in an attempt to tackle in-flight health problems related to long-haul journeys.

The system, known as Tempus, enables cabin crew with minimal medical expertise to diagnose a raft of medical conditions, including potentially fatal Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).

The results are then transmitted via satellite to a team of medical experts on the ground who directly inform cabin crew of their diagnosis and advice.

Last month, a report in the medical journal The Lancet, cited cabin pressure as a possible cause of DVT, which affects more than 8,000 British air passengers every year.

"Emirates takes the health and safety of its passengers very seriously," said Dr Cliff Webster, senior vice-president of medical services at Emirates.

"The system enables medical teams on the ground to differentiate between a serious and a minor medical condition, which will reassure an ill passenger."

Virgin Atlantic and Bmi say they also plan to install the new system across their fleets.

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