CAPSCA Global Meeting
Montreal, 28-30 April 2015

MedAire
An International SOS Company

EXPERT CARE, EVERYWHERE.™

Ground-based Medical Support (GBMS) for Airlines.

An additional link in the system.

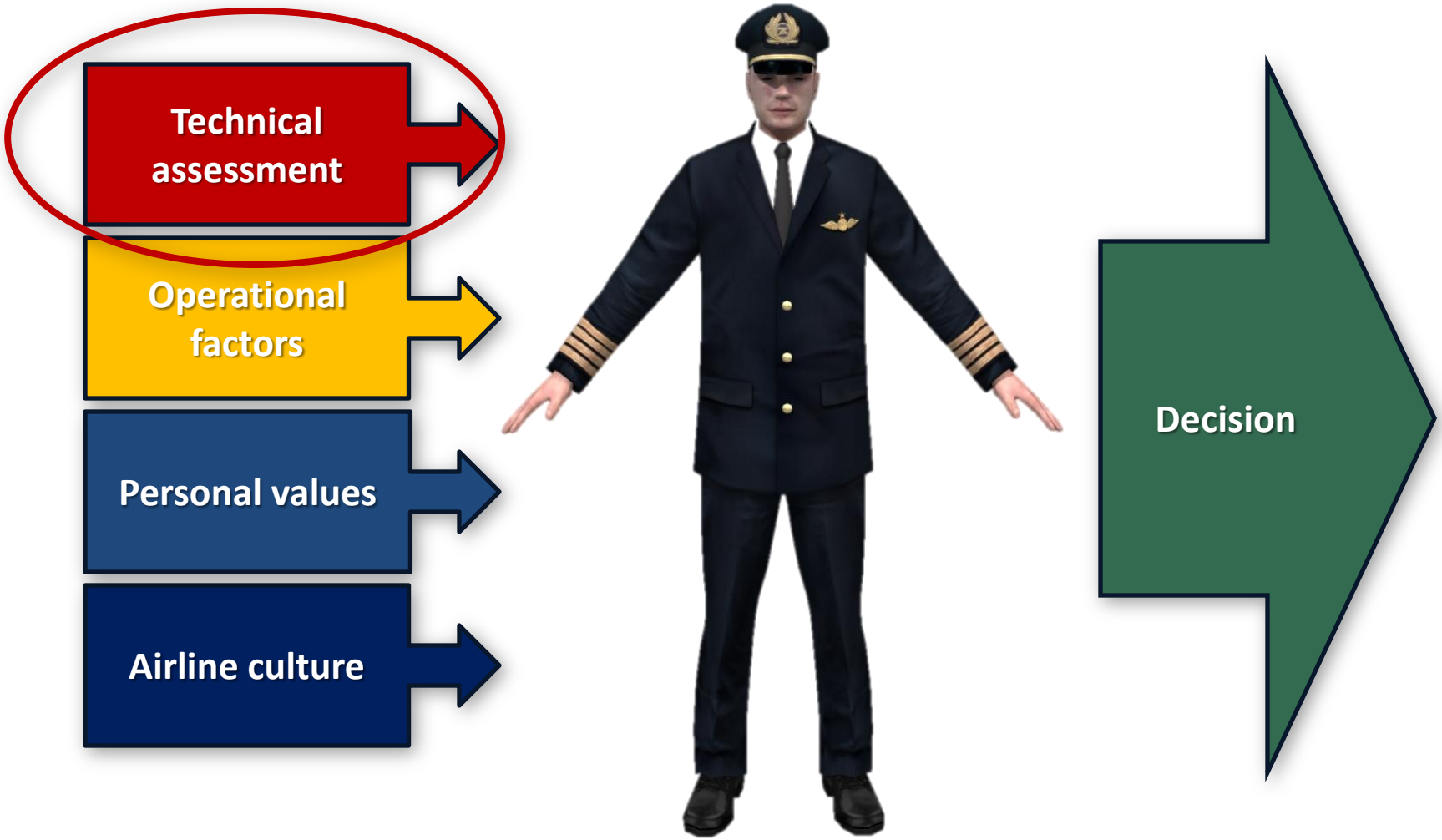
Psulo M. Alves, MD, MSc

www.medaire.com

Disclosure

- Paulo Alves is a full-time MedAire/International SOS employee
- MedAire is a medical solution provider for commercial airlines and business aviation
  - Ground-based medical advice, training and medical equipment
- International SOS is a global health and security assistance company
- Opinions expressed are personal, not necessarily reflecting MedAire / International SOS positions

The captain is in charge…



The doctor passenger

University of Illinois survey 2014

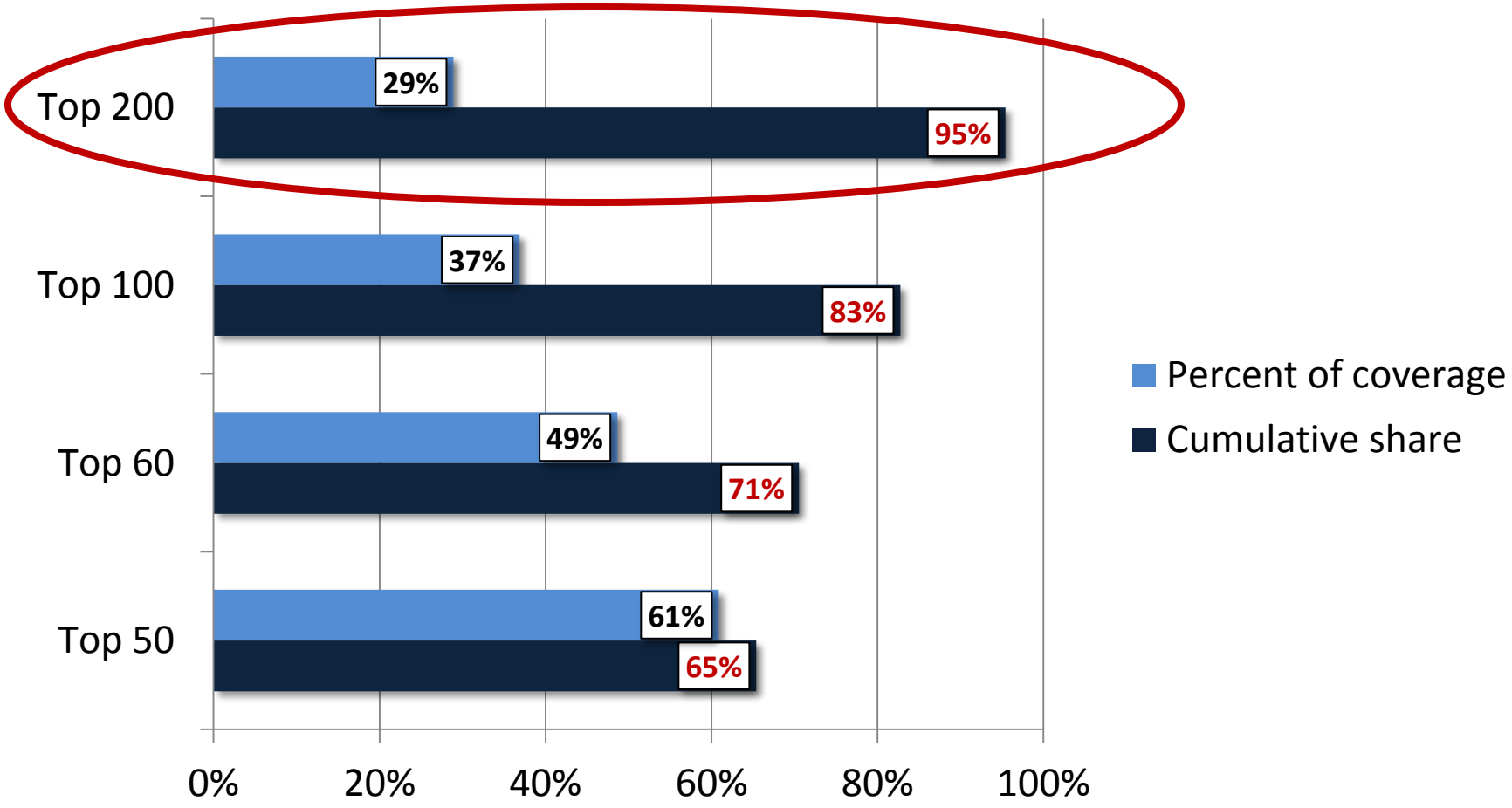
- Flies 3-5 times / year (45%)
- Never faced the situation (57.7%) or only once before (21.1%)
- Doesn’t handle emergencies often (62.3%)
- Would like to have professional help, but is not familiar with GBMS (12%)
- Is not familiar with the medical kit (81.2%)

The advent of remote medical advice
Ground-Based Medical Support (GBMS)

- Common practice in remote environments both civilian and military
- Multiple providers in the civil aviation and maritime sectors
  - State initiatives:
    - CIRM (Centro Internazionale Radio Medico) and the European countries
    - France and SAMU
  - Private initiatives
    - Mayo Clinic
    - MedAire
    - UPMC
    - International SOS
  - Airline medical departments

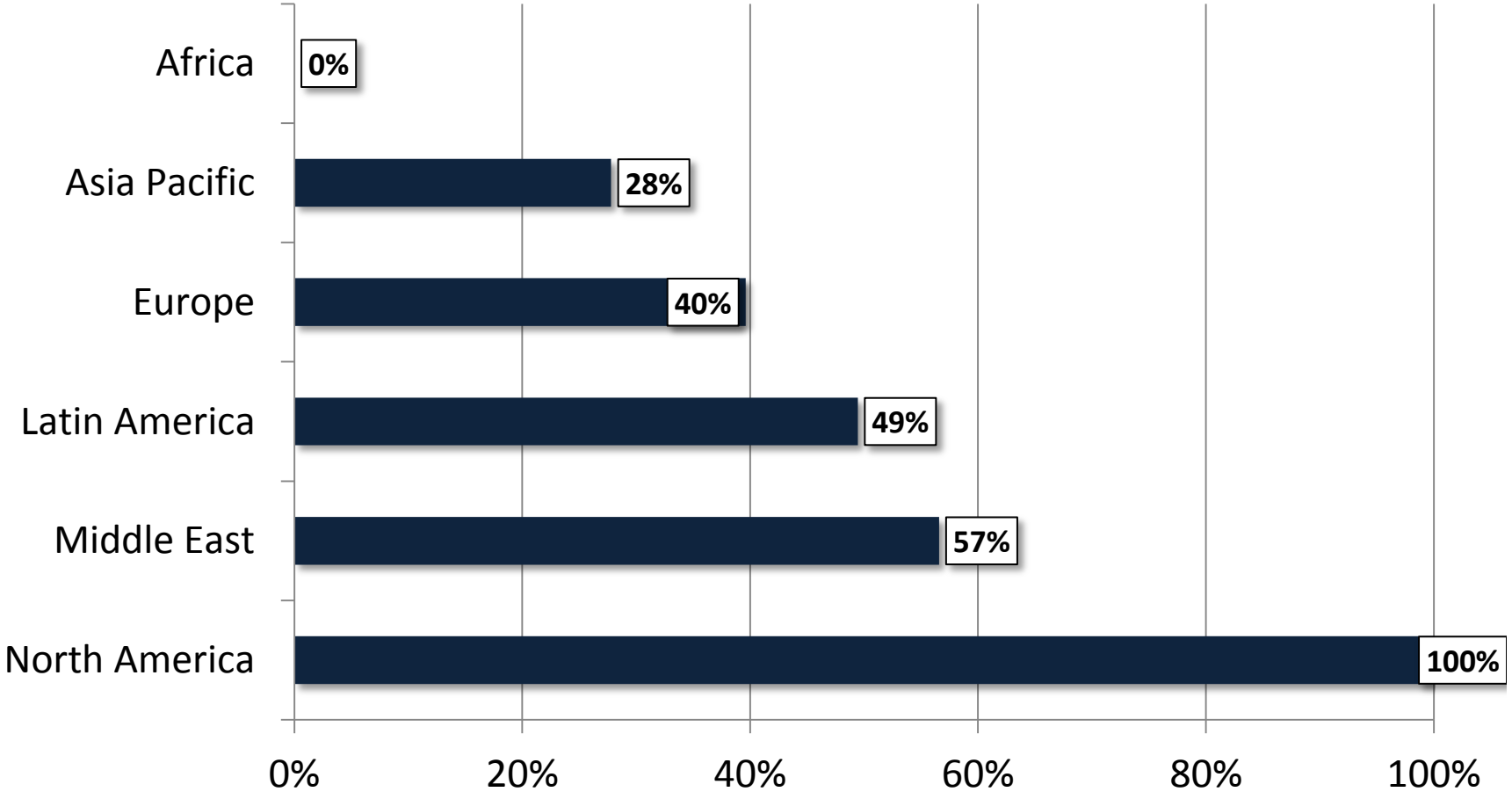
Percent of coverage / per Pax traffic

Source: MedAire

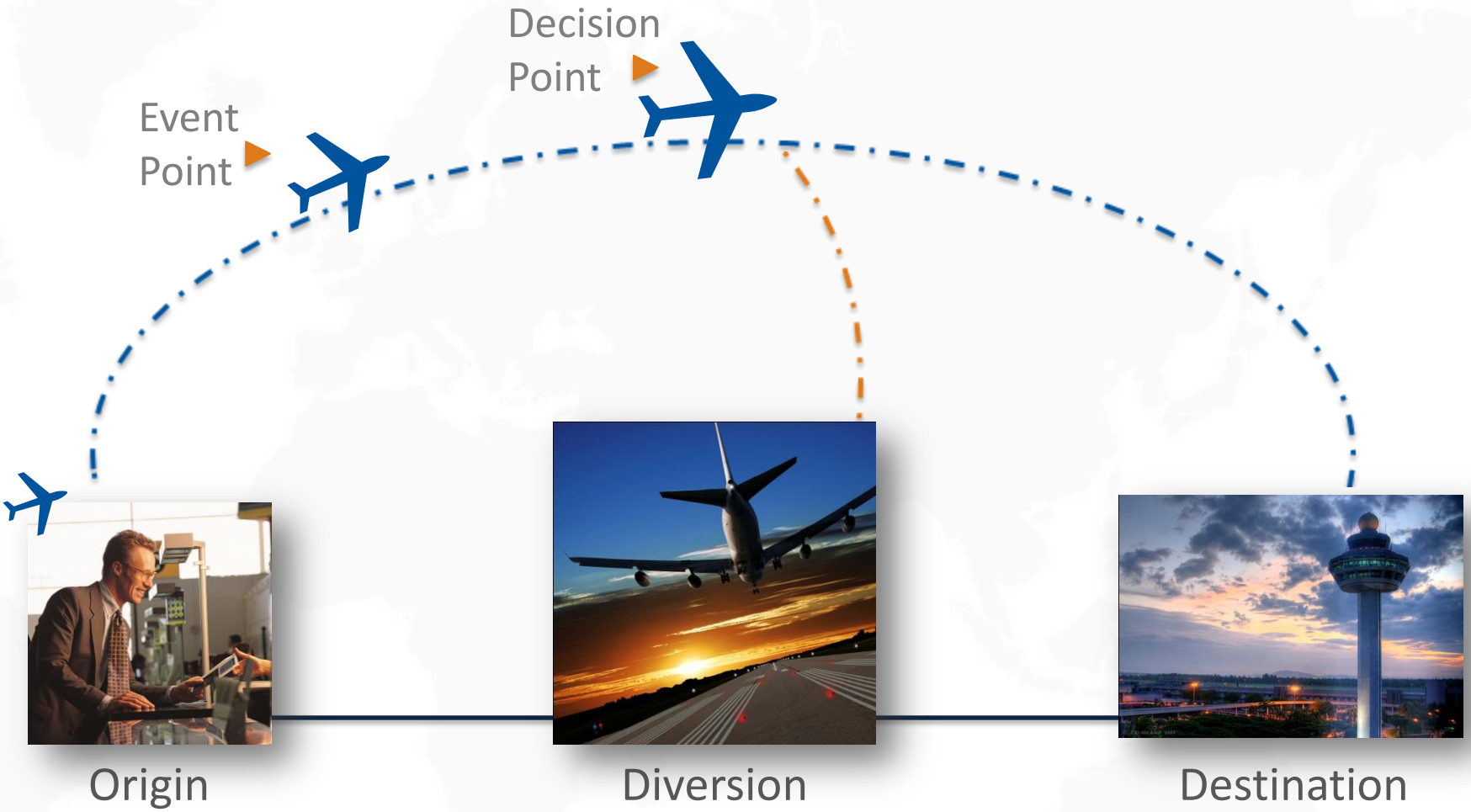


Pax percent of coverage per region
Top 200 airlines

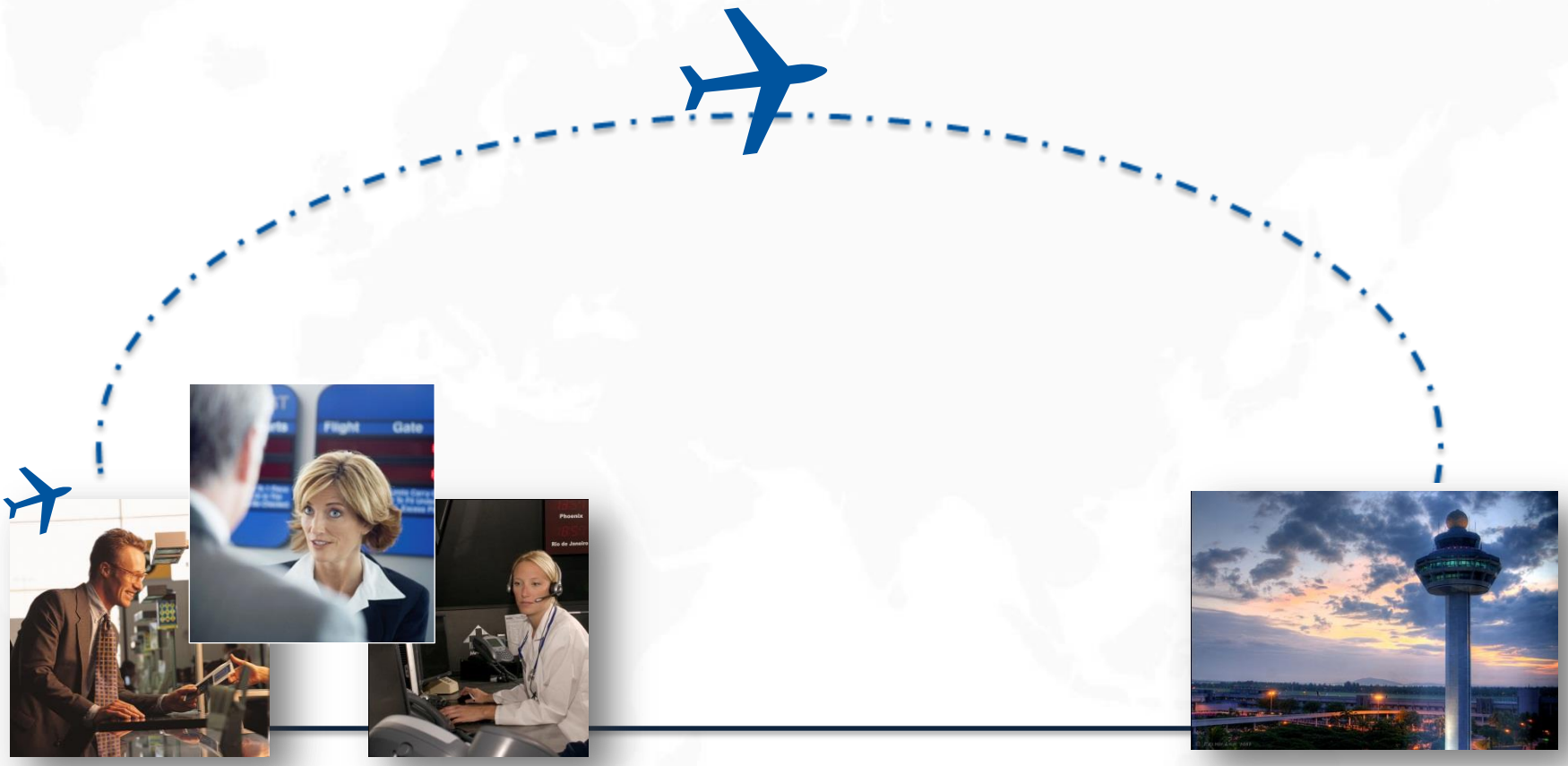
Source: MedAire



Touching points in aviation



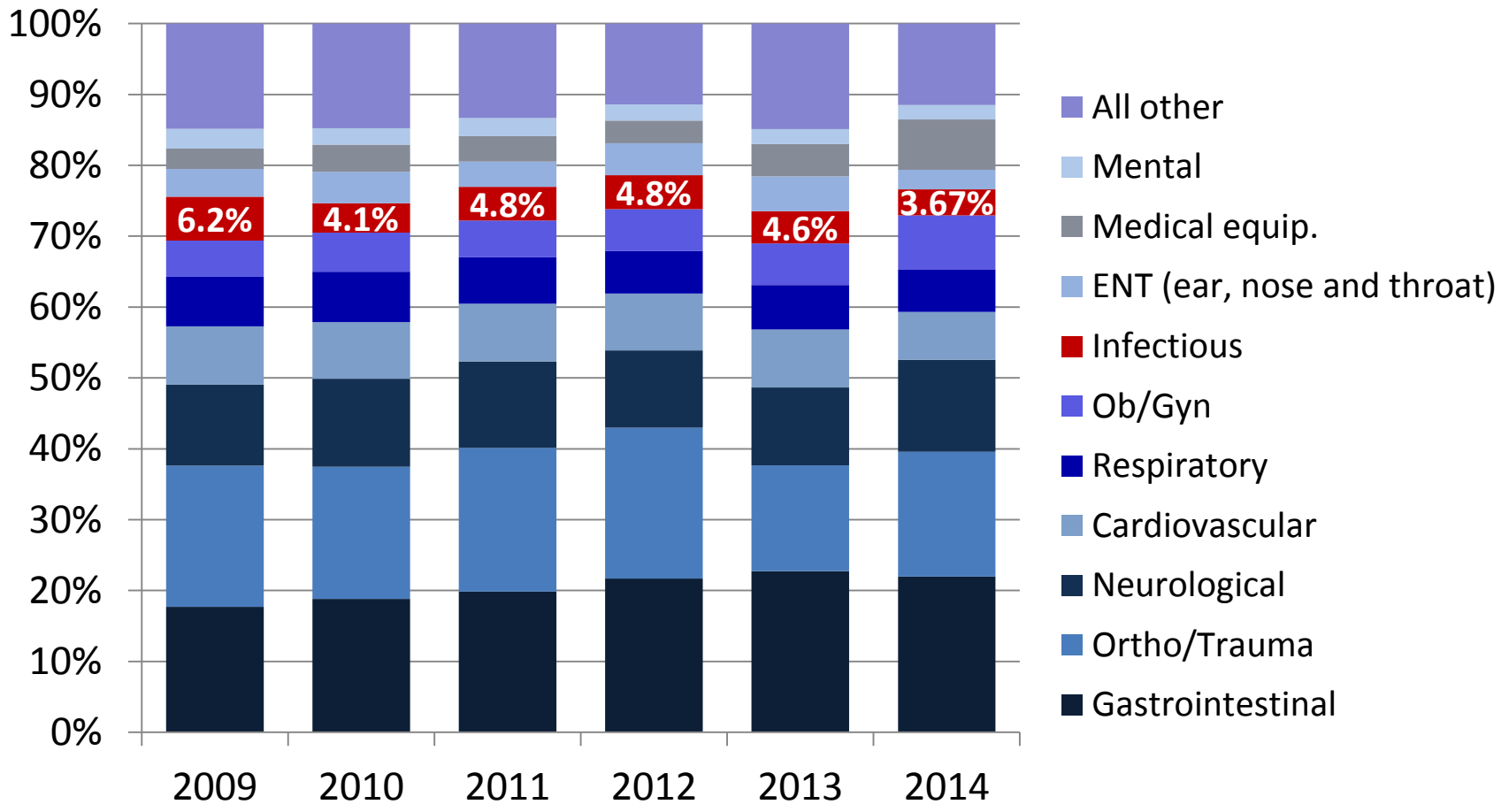
Opportunities for Intervention



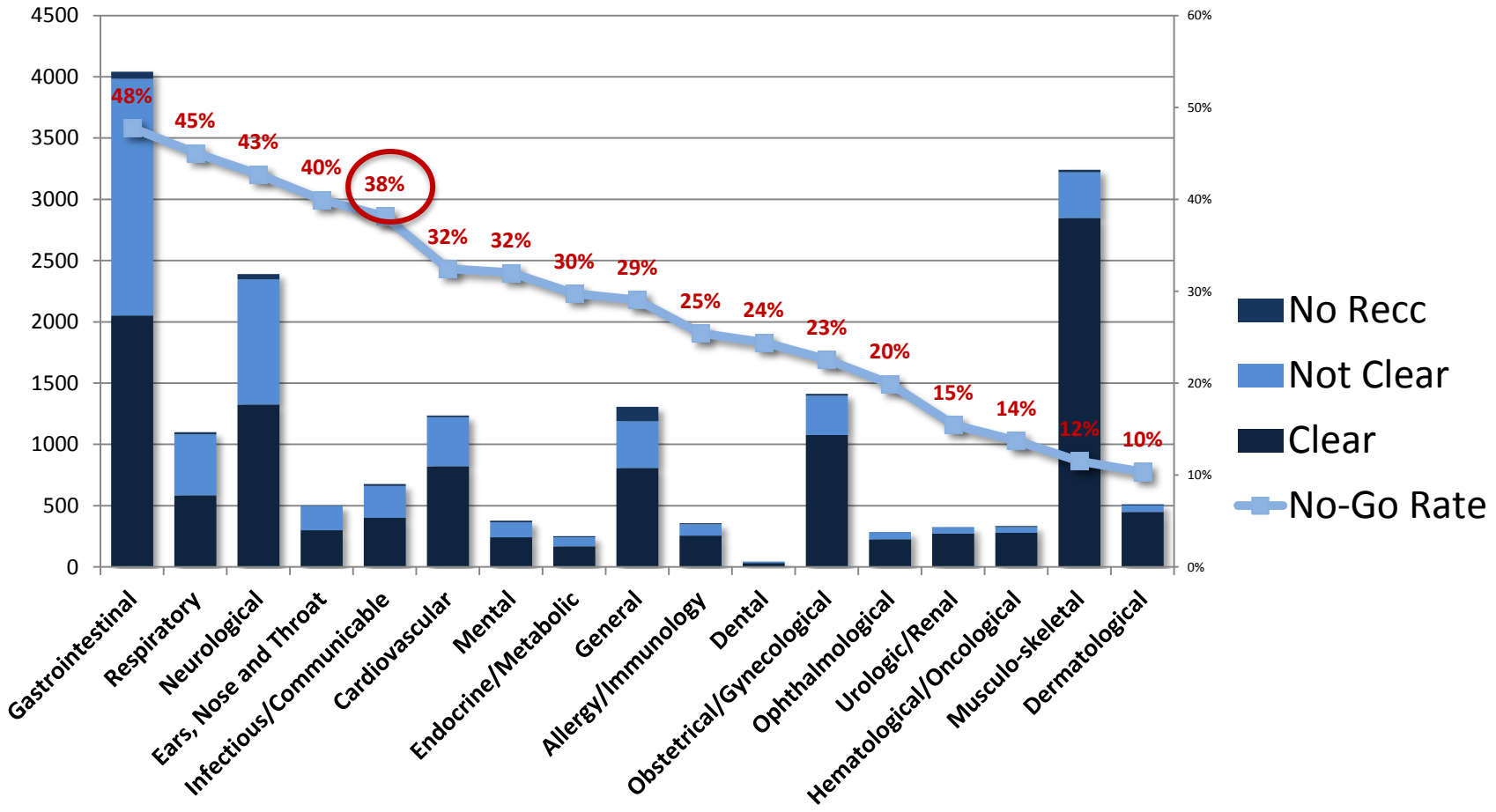
IATA / CDC / WHO

- A communicable disease is suspected when a traveler (passenger or a crewmember) has a fever (temperature 38°C/100°F or greater) associated with one or more of the following signs or symptoms:
  - Appearing obviously unwell
  - Persistent coughing
  - Impaired breathing
  - Persistent diarrhea
  - Persistent vomiting
  - Skin rash
  - Bruising or bleeding without previous injury
  - Confusion of recent onset

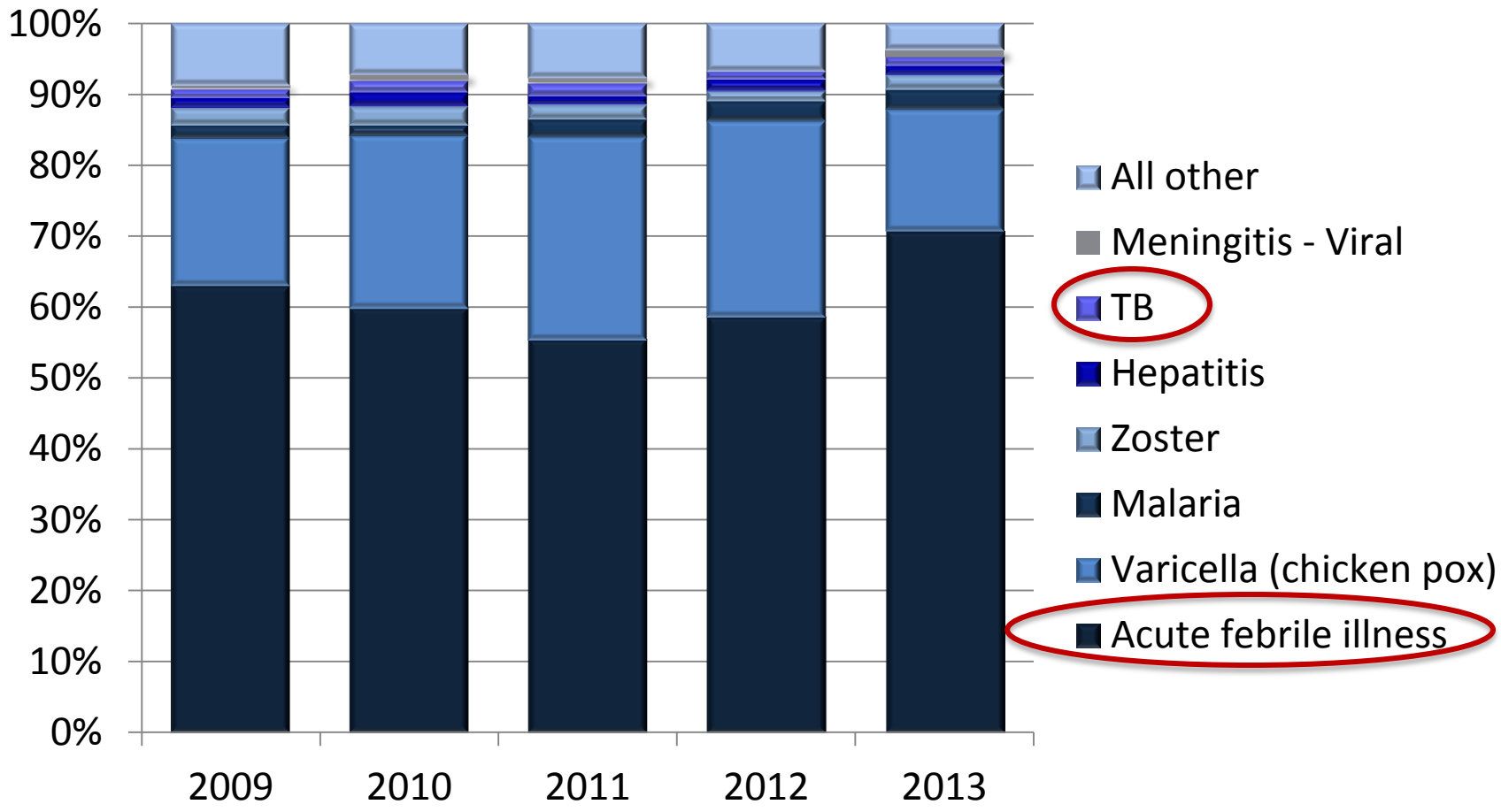
Percentage of Communicable / Infectious Diseases (CIDs) in pre-flight assessments



Dispositions and No-go rate per diagnostic category (2014)



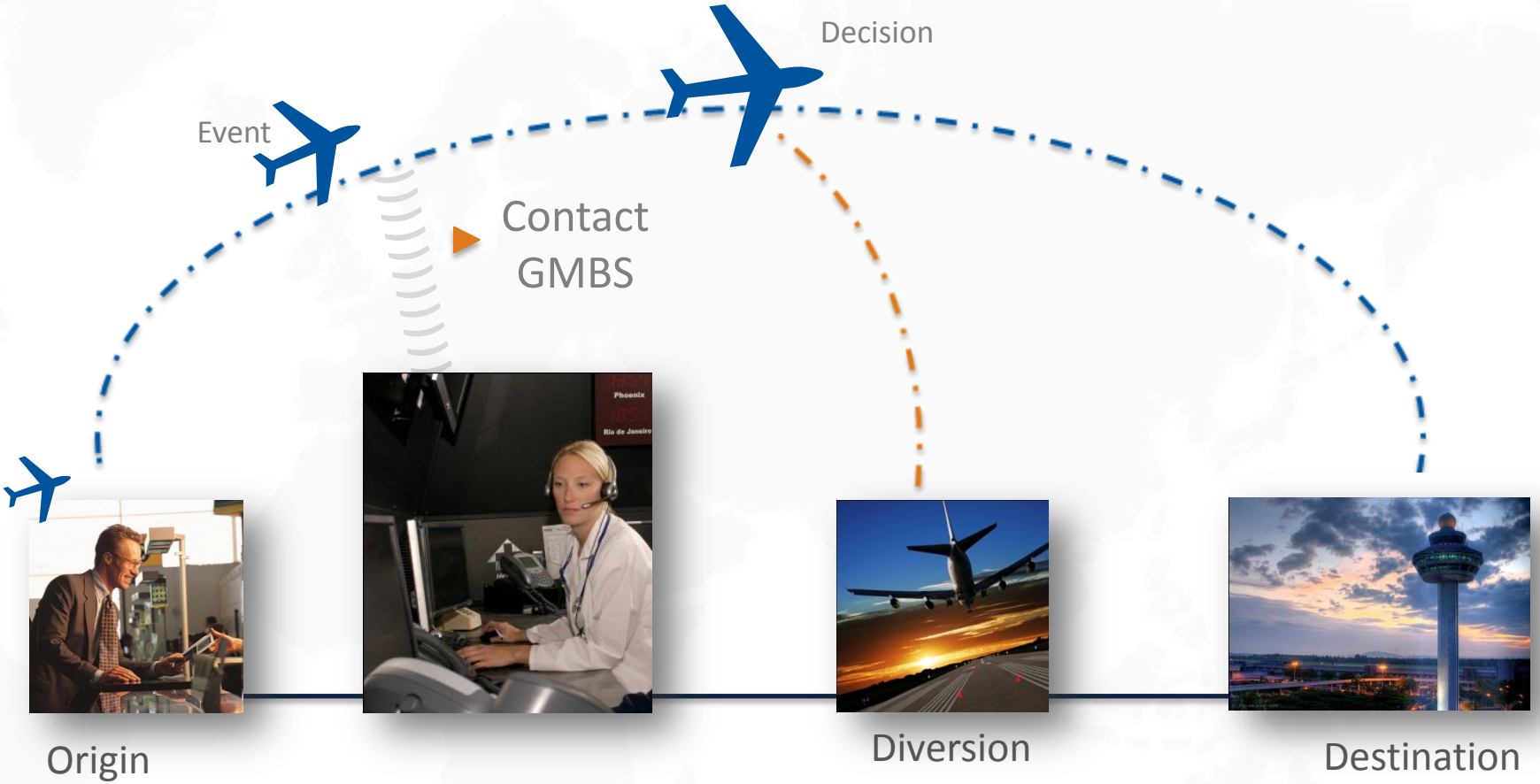
Diagnostic impression



The “index” Ebola case in Nigeria
Would you allow that person to fly?

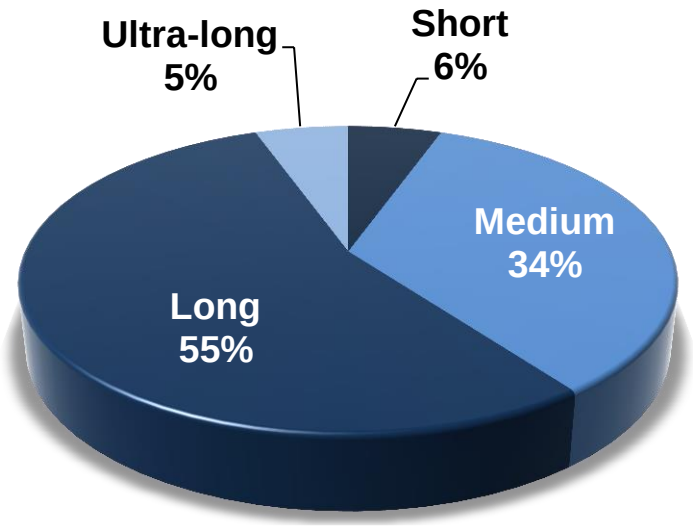
- The Ebola virus entered Lagos on 20 July via an infected Liberian air traveler, who died 5 days later.
- **At the departure airport, he was visibly very ill, lying on the floor of the waiting room while awaiting the flight.**
- At the hospital, he told staff that he had malaria and denied any contact with an Ebola patient.
- As was learned later, his sister was a confirmed case who had died from the disease in Liberia.

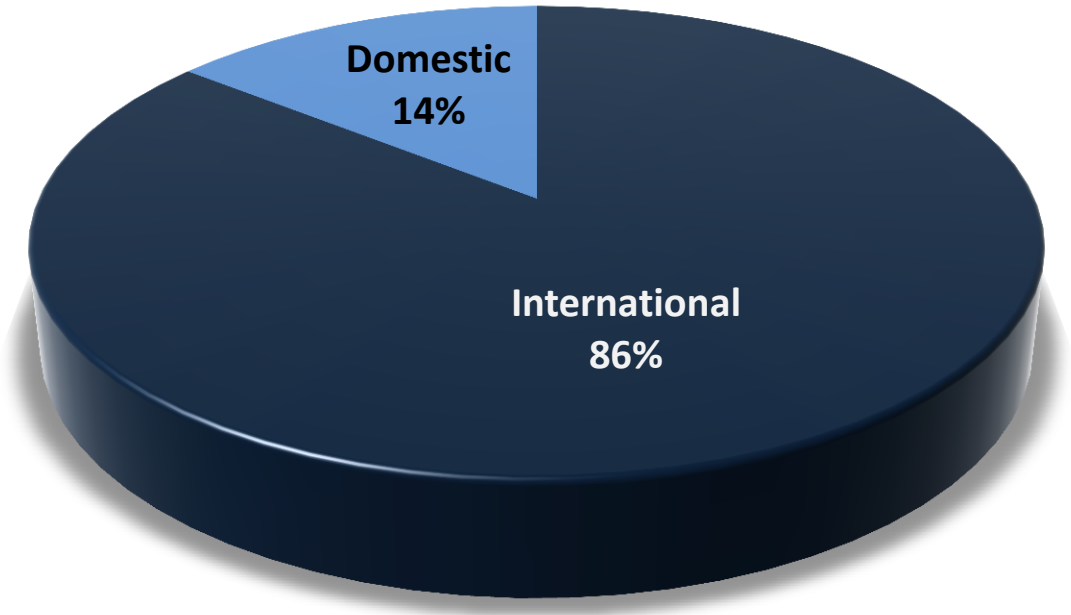
In-flight cases



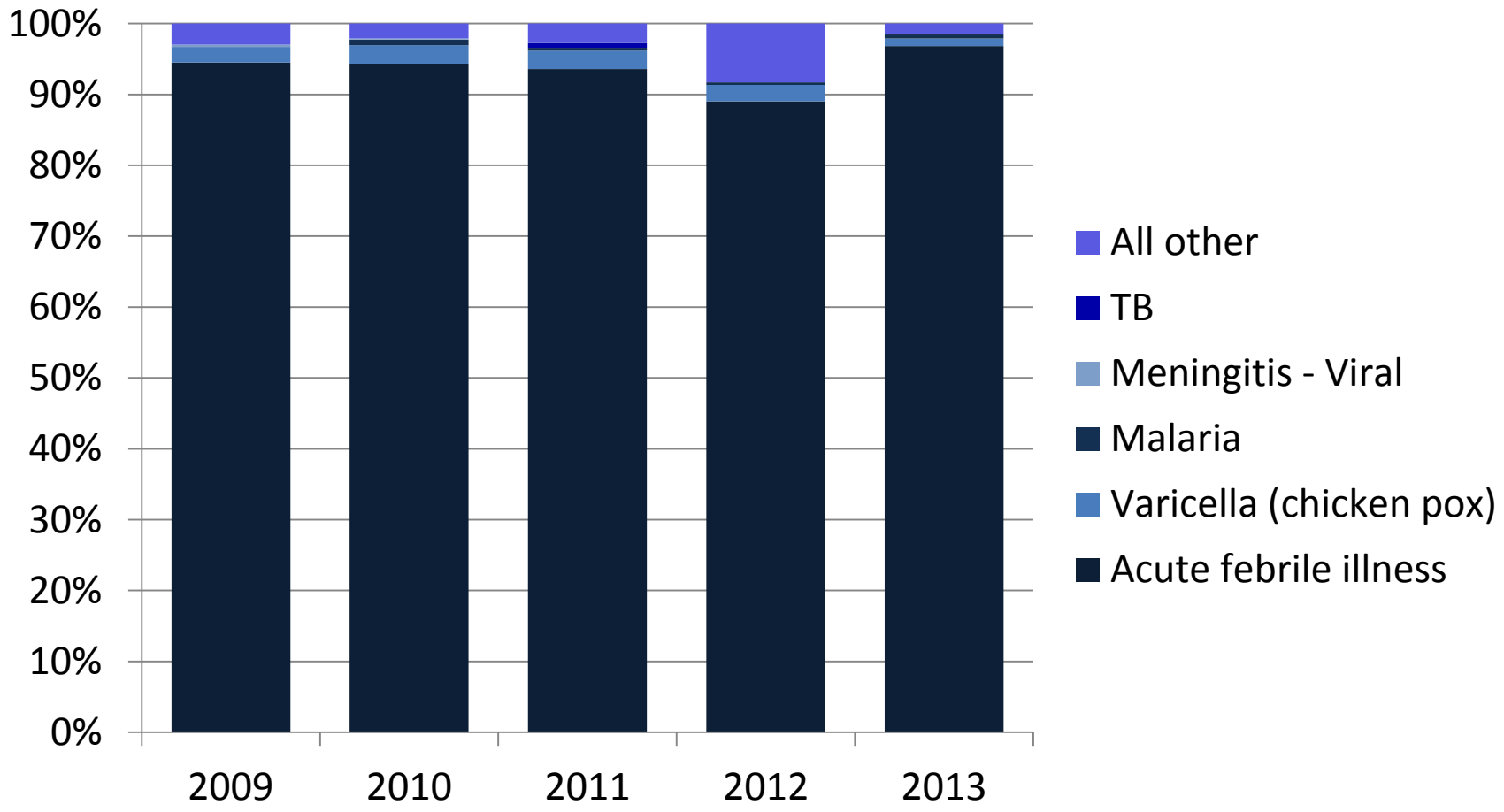
Onboard plan of care • Optimize medical volunteers
• Continuation or diversion recommendations • Consistent data capture

Nature of flight

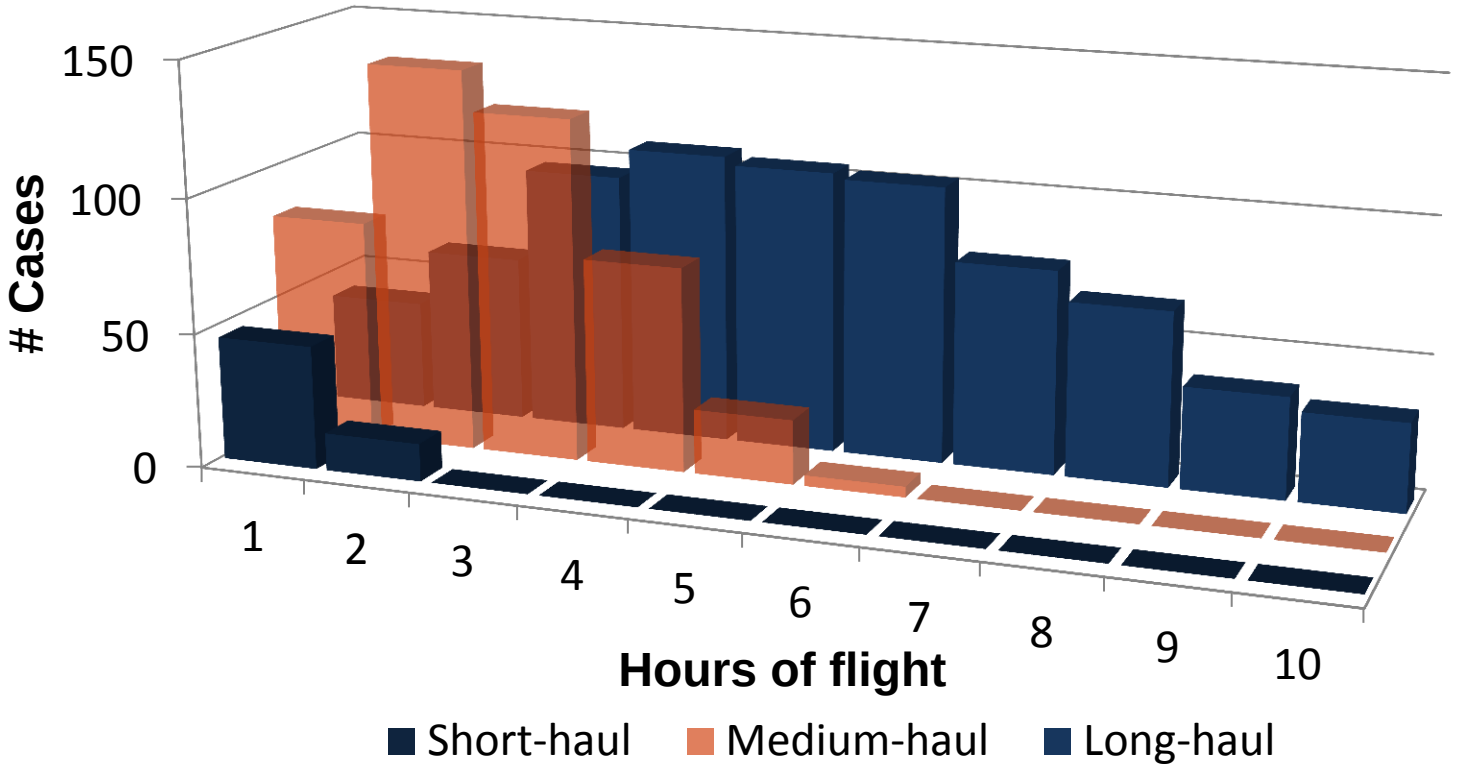




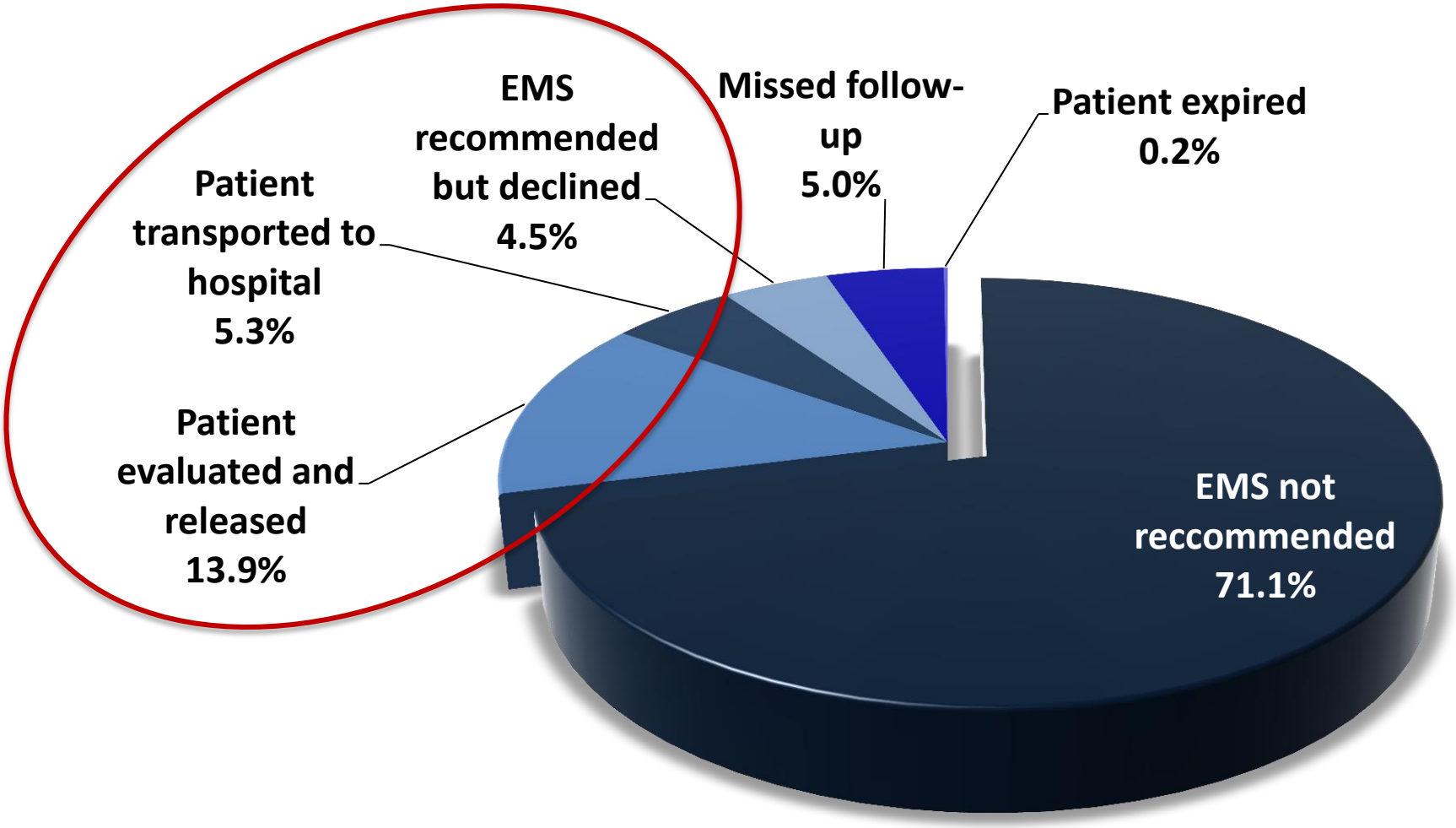
Diagnostic impression

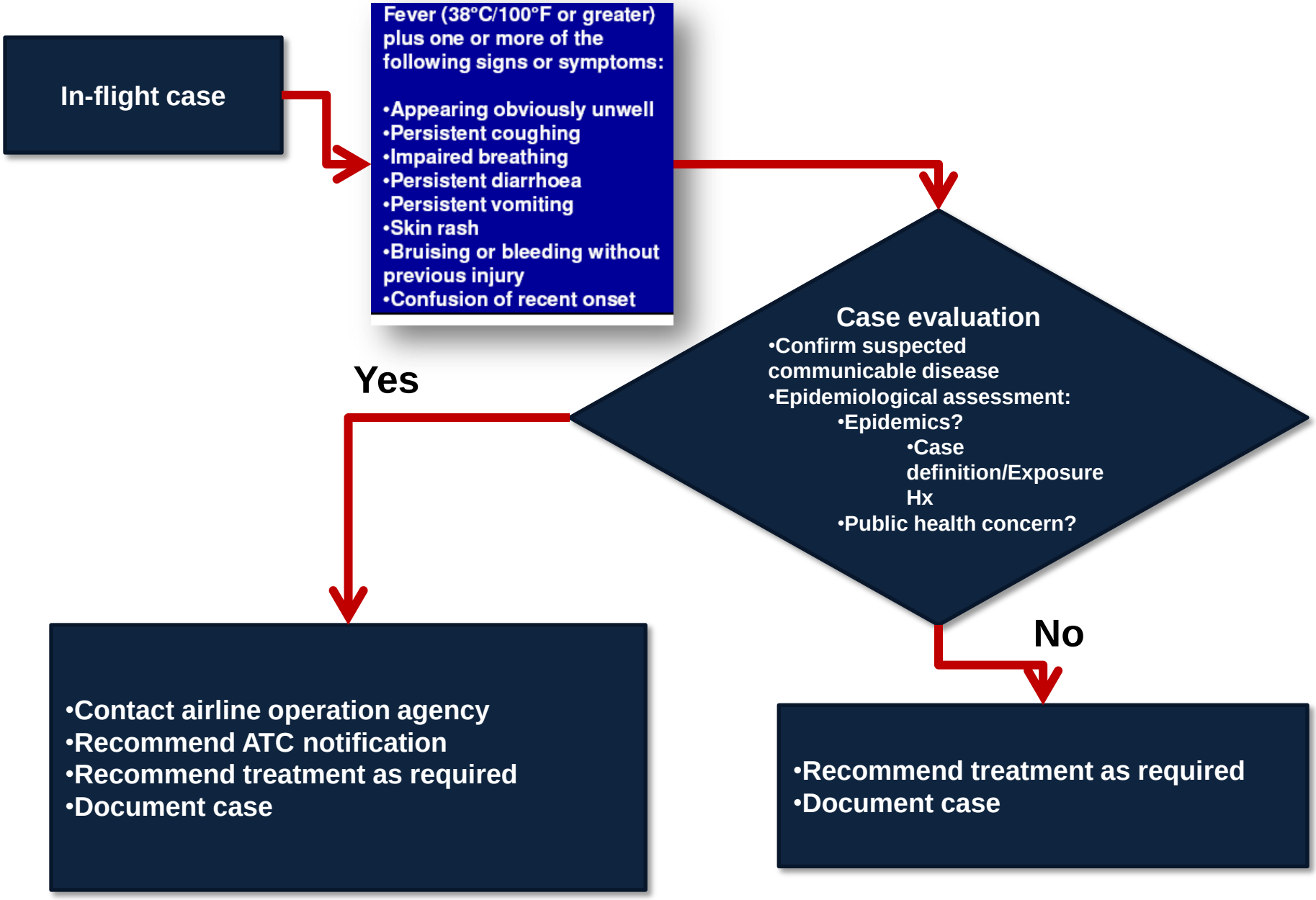


Time into flight



Disposition of Infectious / Communicable Disease in-flight cases




In-flight case
Fever (38°C/100°F or greater) plus one or more of the following signs or symptoms:
•Appearing obviously unwell
•Persistent coughing
•Impaired breathing
•Persistent diarrhoea
•Persistent vomiting
•Skin rash
•Bruising or bleeding without previous injury
•Confusion of recent onset
Case evaluation
•Confirm suspected communicable disease
•Epidemiological assessment:
•Epidemics?
•Case definition/Exposure Hx
•Public health concern?
Yes
No
•Contact airline operation agency
•Recommend ATC notification
•Recommend treatment as required
•Document case
•Recommend treatment as required
•Document case

MANAGING AN ON-BOARD CASE

Aircraft gen. declaration – Health Part

A/C ID
Dep.
Dest.
ETA
POB
No. cases
Nature of risk

GROUND SUPPORT

PHA

AIRPORT OPERATOR

OTHER AGENCY

AIRLINE OPERATING AGENCY

Air traffic controller

Destination aerodrome tower

Conclusions

- GBMS play a significant role in the management of Communicable / Infectious Diseases
- Extension to exit screening
  - Pax Fit-to-fly assessment
- Trigger for entry screening
  - In-flight handling / EMS activation
- Enhancing the system
  - Standardization
  - Collaboration
  - Technological advances

Merci! / Thank you!