

# FIJI DIVE EMERGENCY NOTES

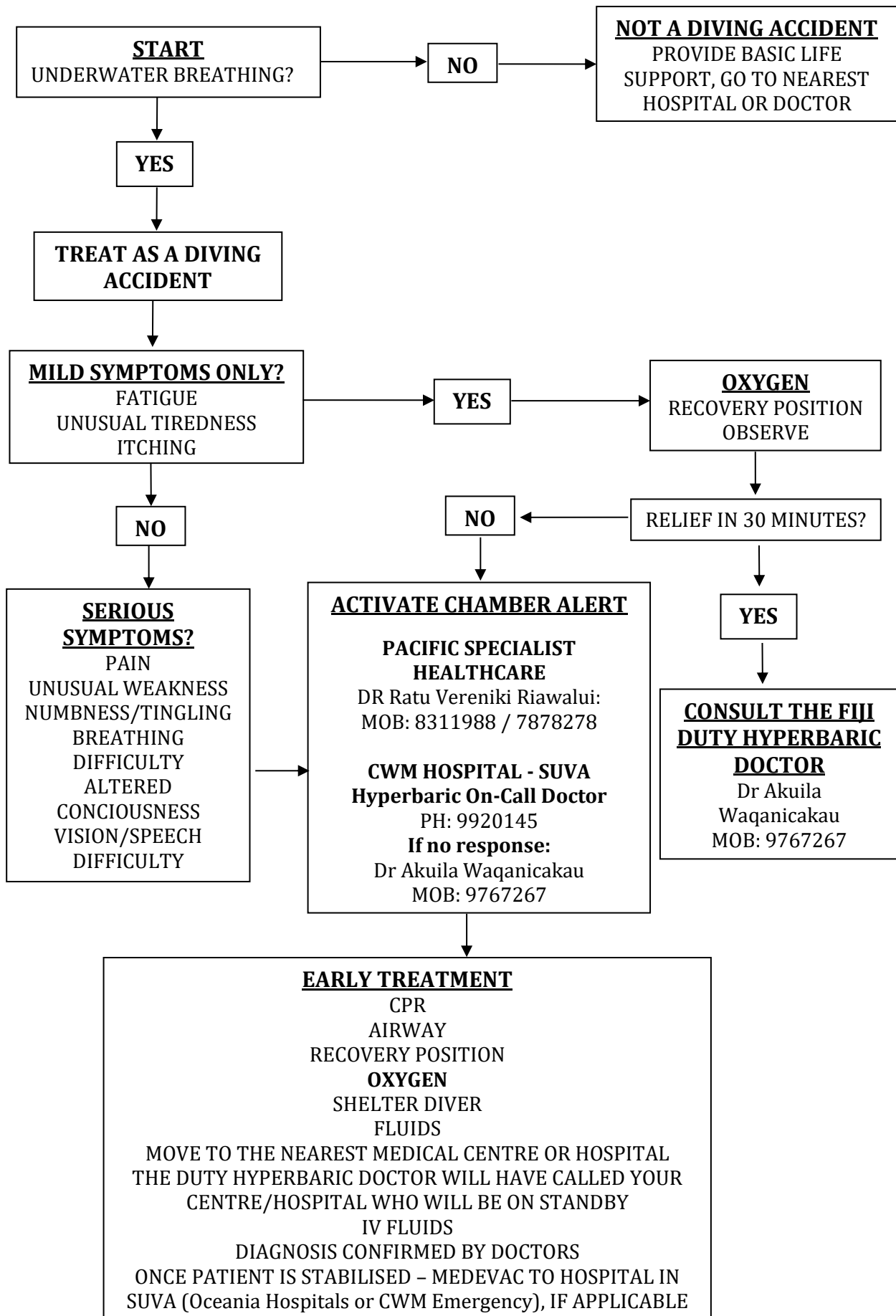
***IF YOU HAVE A SUSPECTED  
DIVE INJURY/ ACCIDENT  
CALL***

<b><i>Suva:</i></b>	<b><i>Nadi:</i></b>
<b>331 3444</b>  THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR WOULD KNOW WHICH HYPERBARIC DOCTOR IS ON DUTY (CWM, SUVA)  <i>Once retrieval for treatment is authorised, OCEANIA HOSPITALS should also be notified of an admission, if necessary:</i>  Call Dr John Alfred <b>992 9541</b>	<b>892 2241</b>  <i>Pacific Specialist Healthcare</i>  OR  <i>DR Ratu Vereniki Riawalui - Director Anaesthesia and Intensive Care</i>  <b>8311988 / 7878278</b>

***IMPORTANT – YOU MUST PLACE THE  
PATIENT ON OXYGEN!***

***IF CONSTANT FLOW, MINIMUM 15 LITRES/MINUTE***

# ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT FLOW CHART - FIJI



# IMMEDIATE CARE

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In a suspected diving accident, the first question is 'Did the victim take a breath underwater?' from a SCUBA tank, hose, bucket, submerged car, or any compressed air source, regardless of depth.

If the answer is no, give CPR and oxygen if needed and evaluate at the nearest medical facility as the casualty is unlikely to require treatment by a diving medicine specialist.

If the injured diver did breathe underwater and only mild symptoms are present (fatigue and itching only), place the patient in the Recovery position if possible and administer oxygen and oral fluids while maintaining close observation for 30 minutes. **DO NOT GIVE ORAL FLUIDS TO PATIENTS SUFFERING DIZZINESS OR NAUSEA DUE TO POSSIBILITY OF VOMITING.**

If these symptoms do not clear, **"ACTIVATE THE HYPERBARIC CHAMBER ALERT"**. (See flowchart)

If the injured diver did breathe underwater and has serious symptoms (see flowchart), the Dive Operator must accompany the patient and do the following:

- 1) Administer CPR if required, with the victim lying flat on his/her back.
- 2) Keep airway open and prevent aspiration of vomit. An unconscious diver should be intubated by trained personnel if possible.
- 3) Administer oxygen by tight-fitting transparent double seal mask at the highest possible oxygen concentration. Do not remove oxygen except to re-open the airway or if the victim shows signs of convulsions.
- 4) Keep victim in the Recovery position if symptoms occurred within 10 minutes of surfacing and steps 1-3 have been completed.
- 5) If convulsion occurs do not forcefully restrain. Turn victim on side (supporting head and neck), maintain airway, sweep away any vomit. Hold victim loosely to prevent self injury and do not forcefully insert any airway or tongue blade, resume oxygen administration.
- 6) Protect the injured diver from excessive heat, cold, wetness, or noxious fumes.
- 7) For conscious patients only, give conscious patients non-alcoholic liquids such as water or fruit juices.
- 8) Call the CWM Hospital switchboard – 3313444, who connects to the Hyperbaric On-Call Doctor - 9920145, or Dr Ratu Vereniki Riawalui at the Pacific Specialist Hospital and initiate Chamber Alert (**see page 8**). *CWMH Hyperbaric Doctor: Dr Akuila Waqanicakau - 976 7267 may not always be available to take calls on the spot.*
- 9) If necessary, the On-Call Hyperbaric Doctor will advise Transport, then Evaluate and stabilize patient at the nearest Medical Centre/Hospital emergency room prior to transfer to the Hyperbaric Chamber Facility. **ENSURE OXYGEN LEVELS ARE AT 15LITRES/MINUTE AND NOT DROPPED TO HOSPITAL NORMS FOR NON-DIVERS**
- 10) **For Doctors or Paramedics only:**  
Intravenous fluid replacement with electrolyte solutions is preferred for unconscious or seriously injured victims. Ringers lactate, normal saline, or 5% dextrose in saline may be used. Do not use 5% dextrose in water. Intravenous fluid treatment requires professional care. Do not attempt unless you have proper training.

- 11) Should the patient be moved to a Medical Centre the Fiji Government Doctor will stabilize the patient, the Dive Operator must ensure communications are frequent to the Hyperbaric Doctor at the Hyperbaric Unit.
- 12) When you initiated the Hyperbaric Chamber Alert, the Hyperbaric Unit will have put all personnel on a state of readiness i.e. The Chamber, Ambulances and the quickest method for MEDEVAC will be on standby readiness to depart. The Ministry of Health Doctor and Hyperbaric Chamber Doctor must authorize all patients (Fiji Citizens, Beche-de-mer Divers, Tourist/Recreational divers, staff, salvage and commercial dive companies) Medevacs, and treatment at the Hyperbaric Unit.
- 13) The patient should remain on oxygen during transport to Hyperbaric Unit.
- 14) If air evacuation is used, IT MUST BE ARRANGED BY THE HYPERBARIC UNIT. It is critical that the patient not be exposed to decreased barometric pressure at altitude. Flight crews must fly at the lowest safe altitude in un-pressurised aircraft. CAAF have agreed 500 feet weather permitting. It is essential that you the Operator personally ask the pilot to confirm he has been briefed on this critically important aspect.

# Dive Emergency Telephone Numbers

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## **Colonial War Memorial (CWM) Hospital Hyperbaric Unit, Suva**

General (24Hrs) ..... Tel 331 3444

**Dr Akuila Waqanicakau** – Hyperbaric Doctor ..... Mob 976 7267

Dr Luke Nasedra ..... Mob 973 0854

CWM Hyperbaric Unit (*only manned if the chamber is in use*) ..... Tel 321 5525

*Medical evacuation direct to Suva will land at the Suva foreshore grounds (next to the Suva Bowling Club) and Treatment will then be done at the Hyperbaric Unit at CWM. An ambulance will need to be organised for pick up (discuss with the Hyperbaric Doctor)*

*On arrival at the hospital, please report to the emergency room, where a hyperbaric staff member will meet and assist you. Call one of the mobiles on arrival if there is no hyperbaric staff there. Staff would normally take you to the Post Anaesthetic Recovery Unit (PARU).*

## **Pacific Specialist Healthcare (PSH) Hospital HBOT Services, Nadi**

General (0700 - 1900Hrs) ..... Tel 892 2241

**DR Ratu Vereniki Riawalui** - Director Anaesthesia and Intensive Care ..... Mob 8311988 / 7878278

## **Fiji Air/Sea Rescue**

Police Sea Rescue (Water police - WATERPOL) ..... Tel 893 2888

ASP Osea Vunaki ..... Tel 331 5380

Fiji Navy (Maritime Search & Rescue) ..... Tel 327 9164

Or ..... Tel 331 6204 / 331 6205 / 331 6206

Toll Free ..... Call: 1539

Island Hoppers ..... Tel 672 0410 / 672 3343

HELiPRO – Emergency Hot Line (24 hrs)..... Mob 770 7700

## **District Hospitals**

Lautoka Hospital .....Tel 666 0399

Nadi Hospital .....Tel 670 1128

**Dr Vukivukiseru** .....Mob 769 2219

Sigatoka Hospital .....Tel 650 0455

Savusavu Hospital ..... Tel 885 0444

Taveuni Hospital.....Tel 888 0444

Labasa Hospital ..... Tel 881 1444

Navua Hospital ..... Tel 346 0181 / 346 0090

**Incident Management Team, National & Divisional Contact Details:** <https://fhta.com.fj/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SDMOs-Contact-Details.pdf>

## **Oceania Hospitals**

**Dr John Alfred** – Chief Medical Officer ..... Mob 992 9541

Nursing/Ward Supervisors (General)..... Mob 998 9360

## **Zens Medical Centre (Nadi)**

Nadi Town (HQ)..... Tel 999 6003 / 776 6600

Namaka ..... Tel 776 2200

Denarau ..... Tel 776 2000

Lautoka ..... Tel 776 4000 / 891 4695

Ba ..... Tel 776 4010 / 222 4682

Labasa ..... Tel 778 6600 / 898 8429

Savusavu ..... Tel 778 8800 / 799 4181

Zens Ambulance Service (Paid service – Western Viti Levu only) ..... 5919  
**Dr Zen**..... Mob 979 7872  
 Dr Tupou ..... Mob 939 3590

***Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association Dive Committee (FHTA DiveComm)***

Allan Gortan, Chair ..... Mob 999 0125 / 778 0125  
 Mike Agnew ..... Mob 999 8305  
 Stuart Gow ..... Mob 997 5416  
 Fantasha Lockington, FHTA CEO ..... Mob 992 6980

***Insurance Companies***

BSP Life ..... Tel 331 7000  
     Health Help Desk ..... Tel 326 1787  
     Health Help Line (A/H) ..... Mob 702 4507  
 Marsh Ltd - Suva..... Tel 322 7300  
     Patrick Anthes – Country Head – Fiji (A/H) ..... Mob 992 4901  
     Lautoka ..... Tel 665 3300  
     **Samu Tunidau** – Branch Manager (A/H)..... Mob 999 0797  
 Aon (Fiji) Ltd - Suva ..... Tel 773 3374  
     **Steve Vincent** – General Manager (A/H) ..... Mob 227 7263  
     Nadi ..... Tel 776 3599  
     **Vinod Patel** – Branch Manager (A/H) ..... Mob 227 7257  
 V Insurance (PADI) ..... Tel +61 2 9285 4111  
 Divers Alert Network (DAN) ..... Tel +61 3 9886 9166  
 Michelle Brunton ..... Tel +61 2 9454 2845 / +64 27 237 7705  
     PADI QA/Incident Report Manager ..... [Michelle.Brunton@padi.com.au](mailto:Michelle.Brunton@padi.com.au)  
 DiveAssure (SSI recommended Broker) ..... Tel +49 (0) 322 2109 5966  
 Sam Jupe ..... Tel +64 21 747 838  
     Scuba School International (SSI) Account Manager ..... [sam.jupe@divessi.com](mailto:sam.jupe@divessi.com)

***Ministry of Fiji Immigration<sup>1</sup>***

***Certificate of Identity (CI)***

Ravineshwaran Nair, ..... Mob 998 6895  
 MANAGER PASSPORTS ..... [ravineshwaran.nair@immi.gov.fj](mailto:ravineshwaran.nair@immi.gov.fj)

*All travel expenses for immigration officers to be dispatched to your location must be covered by the respective organization.*

***High Commissions/Embassies/Consular Services***

British ..... Tel 322 9100 / +64 4 924 2888 (Wellington, NZ)  
 United States of America..... Tel 331 4466 / Mob 772 8049  
 Australia (Main switchboard) ..... Tel 338 2211  
     Or (High Commission line) ..... Mob 707 1222  
     **24 HOUR EMERGENCY** ..... Tel +61 2 6261 3305  
 New Zealand (Main switchboard) ..... Tel 331 1422  
     Or (High Commission line) ..... Tel 779 1956  
     **24 HOUR EMERGENCY** ..... Tel +64 99 20 20 20  
 Japan ..... Tel 330 4633 / 330 2122  
 China ..... Tel 999 7321  
 Canada ..... Tel 327 5160  
     **24 HOUR EMERGENCY WATCH AND RESPONSE CENTRE** ..... Tel +1 613 996 8885  
 France (Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific) ..... Tel 892 9526  
     **24 HOUR EMERGENCY** ..... Tel 992 1752

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<sup>1</sup> Information correct as received on 27 March 2026 from the Fiji Department of Immigration

## **Local Area Dive Contacts**

### **Taveuni**

Allan Gortan, PARADISE TAVEUNI ..... Tel 778 0125 / 999 0125  
Carl & Muriel Fox, TAVEUNI DIVE RESORT ..... Tel 935 9217  
Phillip Morais, GARDEN ISLAND RESORT ..... Tel 888 0286  
Marina Walser, DIVE ACADEMY FIJI .....Tel 725 8167

### **Savusavu**

Bill Keefe, NAMALE RESORT ..... Tel 992 3457

### **Yasawas**

Gareth Van Eyssen, BAREFOOT KUATA/MANTA RESORTS ..... Tel 896 2092  
Or (Operations Manager) ..... Mob 992 5317  
James McCann, YASAWA ISLAND RESORT ..... Tel 666 3364

### **Mamanucas**

Mike Agnew, VITI WATER SPORTS..... Tel 670 2413 / 999 8305  
Brad Rutherford, SOUTH SEA CRUISES ..... Tel 999 2337  
Steven Andrews, CASTAWAY FIJI ..... Tel 992 9202

### **Suncoast/Rakiraki**

Simon Doughty, VOLIVOLI BEACH RESORT & RA DIVERS ..... Tel 992 0942 / 992 0897

### **Coral Coast**

Boris Kaz, WAIDROKA BAY RESORT ..... Tel 992 4944

### **Pacific Harbour/Beqa**

Alexis Edwards, NAIÁ CRUISES ..... Tel 990 7791 / 779 7791  
Natalie Marletta, THE PEARL RESORT ..... Tel 774 8101

### **Suva**

Stuart Gow, RESORT SUPPORT ..... Mob 997 5416

**FIJI CHAMBER ALERT FOR SERIOUS SYMPTOMS**  
**PROCEDURE AND RECORD SHEET**

**1. DIVER HAS SERIOUS SYMPTOMS**

- CPR
- AIRWAY
- RECOVERY POSITION
- OXYGEN
- SHELTER DIVER
- ORAL FLUIDS

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. INITIATE FIJI CHAMBER ALERT BY CALLING THE CWM HOSPITAL**

SWITCHBOARD ..... 331 3444

WHO WILL ALERT THE ON-CALL HYPERBARIC DOCTOR (CWM)

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**SAY:** A) WE HAVE A SERIOUS DIVER EMERGENCY

B) THIS IS A CHAMBER ALERT

C) MY NAME IS \_\_\_\_\_

D) OUR DIVE OPERATION IS \_\_\_\_\_

E) WE ARE MOVING PATIENT TO \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Hospital / Medical Centre)

F) OUR ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL IS \_\_\_\_\_

G) THE PATIENT'S SYMPTOMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I	Unusual fatigue or weakness	Yes / No
ii	Skin itch	Yes / No
iii	Pain on arms, legs or torso	Yes / No
iv	Dizziness	Yes / No
v	Numbness, tingling or paralysis	Yes / No
vi	Shortness of breath	Yes / No
vii	Visual blurring	Yes / No
viii	Chest pain	Yes / No
ix	Disorientation	Yes / No
x	Personality change	Yes / No
xi	Blood froth from mouth / nose	Yes / No
xii	Other symptoms (list)	

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3. **INITIATE AND COMPLETE THE TREATMENT / RECORD SHEET WHICH MUST ACCOMPANY THE PATIENT**
4. **MOVE PATIENT TO NEAREST GOVERNMENT MEDICAL CENTRE / HOSPITAL, ENSURING TREATMENT / **OXYGEN**<sup>2</sup> IS PROVIDED AND OBSERVATION EN ROUTE. TAKE ALL DOCUMENTATION I.E. CHECK IN FORM / PREVIOUS DIVES / LOG BOOK / LATEST DIVE PROFILES AND ALL DIVE EQUIPMENT USED BY PATIENT.**
5. **ON ARRIVAL AT THE MEDICAL CENTRE / HOSPITAL ADMIT THE PATIENT AND STANDBY TO ASSIST IF NECESSARY**
6. **ASSIST HOSPITAL / MEDICAL CENTRE STAFF WITH ANY INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDEVAC**
7. **MEDEVAC WILL BE ARRANGED BY THE HYPERBARIC UNIT AND THE ON-CALL DOCTOR**
8. **A CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY (CI) MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE FIJI DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION IN CASES WHERE A LOCAL DIVER, WHO DOES NOT HAVE A PASSPORT, IS IN URGENT NEED OF MEDICAL TREATMENT OVERSEAS. IMMIGRATION PERSONNEL WILL HAVE MOBILE ENROLMENT KITS AVAILABLE UPON CONTACT TO CARRY OUT MANDATORY ELECTRONIC ENROLLMENT PROCESSES WHICH INCLUDES BIOMETRICS. (see page 6 for contact details)**

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<sup>2</sup> ENSURE OXYGEN LEVELS ARE MAINTAINED AT 15 LITRES/MINUTE

# SYMPTOMS / TREATMENT RECORD SHEET

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PATIENT'S DIVE OPERATOR  
AND TO BE SENT WITH THE PATIENT

**DIVER PATIENT:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) RELATIVE ( ) FRIEND

SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL HISTORY: (Allergies, medications, diseases, injuries, etc.)

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SIGNS/ SYMPTOMS: (note time of each as it arises)

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FIRST AID PROCEDURES INITIATED: (note time of each)

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FIRST DIVE  
TIME IN / OUT  
DEPTH

SECOND DIVE  
TIME IN / OUT  
DEPTH

THIRD DIVE  
TIME IN / OUT  
DEPTH

COMMENTS:

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PREVIOUS DIVES IN FIJI:  
RESORTS: \_\_\_\_\_

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DIVE OPERATORS: \_\_\_\_\_

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DATES OF DIVING: \_\_\_\_\_

