The term “medical treatment” refers to the treatment that must be provided for wounded and sick persons who do not (i.e. civilians\(^1\)) or no longer (i.e. wounded, sick\(^2\) and shipwrecked\(^3\), combatants\(^4\), prisoners of war\(^5\)) participate in the hostilities\(^6\) of an armed conflict. Such treatment is provided by medical personnel\(^7\) and must be delivered without adverse distinction\(^8\) and with the least possible delay. To guarantee the delivery of medical treatment, medical personnel and medical objects\(^9\) are specially protected from attack\(^10\) and can be identified by the distinctive emblems\(^11\).

IHL prohibits carrying out procedures and medical experiments\(^12\) on wounded and sick, or other protected persons\(^13\) that are not required to restore them back to health.

See Medical personnel\(^7\); Medical ethics/medical duties\(^14\); Medical objects\(^9\); Adverse distinction\(^8\); Wounded and sick\(^2\); Civilians\(^1\); Shipwrecked\(^15\);
Afghanistan, Attack on Kunduz Trauma Centre

Thailand, Attack on Hospital

UN, Security Council Resolution 2286 on Attacks on Hospitals

Yemen, Potential Existence and Effects of Naval Blockade

Israel/Palestine, Accountability for the Use of Lethal Force

Syria: Medical support for ISIS

LEGAL SOURCE

of wounded, sick and shipwrecked

GCI, 12 (see ICRC updated Commentary)

GCII, 12 (see ICRC updated Commentary and 14 (see ICRC updated Commentary)

GCIii, 30

GCIV, 57

PI, 14
of POWs

GCIII, 13 [36]-16 [37], 20/2 [38], 30 [31], 46/3 [39], 54/2 [40], 98/4 [41], 108/3 [42]

of civilian internees

GCIV, 81 [43], 91 [44], 95/4 [45], 127/2 [46]

of protected persons

GCIV, 32 [47], 38/2 [48]

Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/medical-treatment

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