

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE STORY



During a skydiving holiday to the US, Pieter hit the ground at 100kms per hour in a landing that went horribly wrong



LOCATION: Los Angeles, USA

HOLIDAY TYPE: Three-month skydiving holiday

Quick facts:

- Pieter is a passionate and highly experienced skydiver. After skydiving for several months around the US, Pieter attempted an advanced landing manoeuvre he'd been practicing for some time. Unfortunately it went wrong and he hit the ground at 100 kilometres per hour
- People rushed to help Pieter. Fortunately for him the group included a thoracic surgeon who stabilised his neck
- A medivac helicopter happened to be in the area, so its medical team stabilised Pieter before flying him to Riverside Medical Centre
- X-rays and scans showed Pieter had suffered a split and distended pelvis, as well as a fractured back, elbow and ankle. He was put into an induced coma and we flew Pieter's partner Sue to the US to be with him
- Seven surgeons, including one of the world's leading pelvic surgeons, operated on Pieter for seven hours
- A week later Pieter underwent a second surgery to further stabilise his pelvis
- He spent two weeks in hospital and then another two in a rehabilitation centre before our nurses medically escorted him home

How we helped

Our medical assistance team was in touch with Pieter and Sue everyday. We also liaised with Pieter's medical team and oversaw his treatment. When it was time for Pieter to fly home we made his travel arrangements and two of our registered nurses medically escorted Pieter from the US to hospital in New Zealand. We covered Pieter's medical and transport costs in full, as well as Sue's travel and expenses while she was in the US

The challenges

Pieter's accident could have been much worse, with some of his surgeons saying they had never seen injuries as serious as his

Policy price:	Claim cost:
\$730	\$746,000

Keep travelling tip:

Pieter's policy included cover for one of the world's riskiest sports, so when he crashed he had access to the best possible medical care at no cost. Without insurance, paying his own medical bills may have impacted Pieter for the rest of his life

"You guys have been great. This is the third year in a row I've taken out a policy with you and I will again. I'm so thankful Cover-More took care of me" Pieter van den Berg, Cover-More customer



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