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Press release

Subject: train accident in Fiesch / Lax

Sion / Brig, July 30th, 2010 – Among the 40 passengers injured in the train accident on July 23th, 8 are still hospitalised in Visp (1), Sion (3), Lausanne (2), Geneva (1) and Berne (1). In the course of the next days, 3 of those 8 patients hospitalised in the canton of Valais will be able to fly back to Japan. Another one will be transferred at the beginning of next week from the Hospital of Sion to the University Hospital of Lausanne.

Description of the event

40 passengers have been injured in the train accident that occurred on July 23rd, 2010 in Fiesch / Lax. 38 of them have been hospitalised at one of the hospitals of the canton of Valais, 1 passenger has been hospitalised at the University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV) and 1 at the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG).

Thanks to a swift reaction could the hospitals of the Valais adapt promptly and place the injured passengers in the different emergency and surgical units. 17 passengers could leave the outpatient care units. 23 were brought to the inpatient care units: 9 with severe injuries among which 4 needed artificial respiratory device and 2 were in critical situation.

Bridging the linguistic gap

Patients were all adults from Japan (28), Switzerland (5), Spain (4), Austria (2) and India (1). It has been a challenge in terms of communication with the patients in particular for those from Japan. Early involvement of a team of translators made it possible to bridge this linguistic gap.

Current situation and prognosis

As of today Friday July 30th, 2010, the situation is as follows: 8 patients all Japanese are hospitalised at the hospitals of Visp (1), Sion (3), Lausanne (2), Geneva (1) and Berne (1). In the course of the next days, 3 of those patients hospitalised in the canton of Valais will be





able to fly back to Japan. The patient currently hospitalised at the intensive care unit of the hospital of Sion will be transferred at the beginning of next week to the University hospital of Lausanne (CHUV). The patient hospitalised at the hospital of Berne has been transferred from the intensive care unit to the inpatient care. Her health situation is improving gradually.

We would like moreover to express our condolences to the relatives and entourage of the deceased passenger and our best wishes for a prompt recovery to all the injured passengers.

The police of the canton of Valais is coordinating any request for further information for the entourage or relatives and can be reached at the following number (Help line): +41(0)848 112 117.

L'Hôpital du Valais – Réseau Santé Valais (RSV) dans la loi – est une entreprise autonome de droit publique, regroupant les hôpitaux de Brigue (y c. Hôpital psychiatrique), Viège, Sierre, Sion et Martigny, le Centre Valaisan de Pneumologie à Montana, la Clinique Sainte-Claire (Sierre) et la Clinique Saint-Amé (St-Maurice), les Institutions Psychiatriques du Valais Romand avec l'Hôpital de Malévoz, l'Institut Central (ICHV) ainsi que l'EMS Gravelone. Les résultats d'exploitation de la partie valaisanne de l'Hôpital du Chablais (Monthey, Aigle) incombent au RSV. En 2009, l'Hôpital du Valais a pris en charge près de 37'500 patient(e)s hospitalisé(e)s et a assuré 317'000 visites ambulatoires. Environ 4'600 collaborateurs et collaboratrices mettent le patient au centre de leurs préoccupations.

