

PILOT INFORMATION – CURRENT, DETAILED CLINICAL PROGRESS NOTE

(Updated 09/25/2024)

The FAA requires a **current, detailed Clinical Progress Note** to determine your eligibility for a FAA Medical Certificate. If you ask your physician's office for a copy of your progress note, they may direct you to your patient portal to print out “notes” or an “After Visit Summary (AVS).” Patient Portal notes or an AVS that **do not meet the criteria listed below** for a detailed Clinical Progress Note are **NOT** sufficient for FAA purposes. Submitting incorrect or incomplete information will delay your medical certification review. To help avoid this, please review the information provided below.

You may wish to share this with your treating physician, so they are aware of the information is reviewed by FAA medical personnel including physicians with expertise in aerospace medicine and a variety of specialties/subspecialties “(such as ENT, ophthalmology, surgery, neurology, neuropsychology family medicine, internal medicine, and cardiology.) Here is how to tell the difference between patient portal notes or AVS vs a **current, detailed Clinical Progress Note**:

WHEN YOU SEE THIS:	IT MEANS THIS TO FAA Aerospace Medicine:
CURRENT	<p>To be “current,” in MOST CASES, the detailed Clinical Progress Note should be from an evaluation in which you saw your treating physician no more than 90 days ago.</p> <p>(*FAA ATCS clearance exams correlate with birth month, so the treating physician evaluation should be within 90 days of birth month.)</p>
DETAILED In some instances, the specialty of the physician will be specified (ex. Cardiologist or neurologist, etc.)	<p>This information is standard in most clinical progress notes. (e.g., Medicare standards).</p> <p>It Must include the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A summary of the history of the condition,• Current medications, dosages, and side effects (if any);• Clinical exam findings;• Results of any testing performed;• Diagnosis;• Assessment and Plan;• Prognosis (This item may not be on a standard progress note, make sure your physician adds this information.); and• Follow-up <p>Please note: A letter stating, “Mr. Smith is ok to fly” (or any other simple note), is NOT a current, detailed Clinical Progress Note and is NOT acceptable.</p>
CLINICAL	Describes findings from an actual clinical encounter (usually in office).

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<p>PROGRESS NOTE</p> <p>You may also see this called a “current status report” or “status report” in current FAA Guidance. Any reference to a “status report” equals the criteria listed on this sheet.</p>	<p>This is part of the actual medical record that details events of your office or hospital visit.</p> <p>Physicians and other providers understand this term. It may be called a SOAP note or patient note. It has specific components (see “Detailed” above).</p> <p>A patient “after visit summary” or “patient summary” are NOT sufficient for FAA purposes. To see if your note meets FAA requirements, see the previous page for a comparison between “patient portal or after visit summary” vs. current, detailed Clinical Progress Note.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="467 640 1455 1438"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="467 640 998 699">✗ Patient Portal or After Visit Summary (AVS)</th><th data-bbox="998 640 1455 699">✓ Current, Detailed Clinical Progress Note</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 699 998 751">Ready immediately after the visit.</td><td data-bbox="998 699 1455 751">May take some time (days) for the physician to review and sign.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 751 998 835">Accessible on your patient portal.</td><td data-bbox="998 751 1455 835">May be accessible in your patient portal, however, this depends on your physician's Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 835 998 888">Title = “After Visit Summary”</td><td data-bbox="998 835 1455 888">Title = “Progress Notes” or “View notes”</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 888 998 1354"> <p>Page Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood pressure, weight, pulse; • Instructions (“pick up medications, return in 6 months,” etc.); • Reason for visit, list of medications given, or tests ordered; and • Medication allergies, immunization history, etc. </td><td data-bbox="998 888 1455 1354"> <p>Page Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood pressure, weight, pulse; • Instructions (“pick up medications, return in 6 months,” etc.); • Reason for visit, list of medications given, or tests ordered; • Medication allergies, immunization history, etc.; <p>Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of body systems; • Physical exam findings (Ex. constitutional, cardiovascular, skin, etc.); • List of all current medications, dosages side effects (if any); • Assessment and Plan (prognosis); and • ICD-10 codes </td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1354 998 1438">You do not need to sign a release to obtain.</td><td data-bbox="998 1354 1455 1438">You may have to sign a release with your physician's office to get a copy (printed or released to you in your EMR).</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	✗ Patient Portal or After Visit Summary (AVS)	✓ Current, Detailed Clinical Progress Note	Ready immediately after the visit.	May take some time (days) for the physician to review and sign.	Accessible on your patient portal.	May be accessible in your patient portal, however, this depends on your physician's Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system.	Title = “After Visit Summary”	Title = “Progress Notes” or “View notes”	<p>Page Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood pressure, weight, pulse; • Instructions (“pick up medications, return in 6 months,” etc.); • Reason for visit, list of medications given, or tests ordered; and • Medication allergies, immunization history, etc. 	<p>Page Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood pressure, weight, pulse; • Instructions (“pick up medications, return in 6 months,” etc.); • Reason for visit, list of medications given, or tests ordered; • Medication allergies, immunization history, etc.; <p>Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of body systems; • Physical exam findings (Ex. constitutional, cardiovascular, skin, etc.); • List of all current medications, dosages side effects (if any); • Assessment and Plan (prognosis); and • ICD-10 codes 	You do not need to sign a release to obtain.	You may have to sign a release with your physician's office to get a copy (printed or released to you in your EMR).
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<p>“IT MUST SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE”</p>	<p>If this language is in your letter, it is to highlight SPECIFIC items (that may or may not be part of a standard current, detailed Clinical Progress Note). Make sure your physician addresses these specific items important for medical certification or clearance.</p>												