

## SSRI Recertification/Follow-Up Clearance

(Updated 12/28/2022)

Policy Change in SSRI Program Cognitive Testing Requirements for Renewal of Special Issuance:

After careful study of data from 425 pilots in the SSRI Program, the FAA has determined that the neuropsychologist evaluation and routine CogScreen-AE administration are no longer necessary for **RENEWAL** of an SSRI special issuance, except when clinically indicated or specified on the Authorization/Special Consideration Letter. This policy change does NOT affect **initial** evaluations and the current AME checklists and Specifications for Neuropsychological Evaluations should still be used. This policy is effective immediately (12/15/2022).

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**1. Does the policy change apply to all classes of pilots and ATCS?**

Yes.

**2. Is a Neuropsychology follow up evaluation still required?**

No. This policy change eliminates both the neuropsychologist evaluation and CogScreen for follow-up evaluations (unless the pilot/ATCS receives a specific request for follow-up).

**3. My pilot/ATCS is currently on an Authorization for the SSRI program. Their current Authorization letter states they need CogScreen. Can I issue without a follow-up CogScreen and Neuropsychology evaluation based on the 12/15/2022 policy change?**

Yes. If all other items of the HIMS AME Checklist – SSRI Recertification/Follow-Up Clearance are in the clear column and they are otherwise qualified - issue with a 6-month time limitation. Submit all information to the FAA for review.

**4. What will happen when the case is reviewed at the FAA?**

- All SSRI cases are reviewed by a FAA psychiatrist.
- As each case is reviewed, a new Authorization letter may be generated. In most cases, the requirement for a follow-up CogScreen will be removed.
- For a small number of cases, a follow up CogScreen may be required. This information will be on the Authorization Letter.

**5. If my pilot/ATCS receives a letter asking for a new CogScreen, can they fly in the meantime?**

Yes, if otherwise qualified. There will be some overlap in letters that were sent out prior to 12/15/2022 which asked for a follow-up CogScreen. If the pilot/ATCS has already completed the CogScreen from the previous letter, the AME should review and send it to the FAA.

If the pilot/ATCS has provided all items to the HIMS AME **except the CogScreen and Neuropsychology evaluation** (for follow-up SSRI Authorization), the AME can issue if all

items are in the clear column of the [HIMS AME Checklist – SSRI Recertification/ Follow-Up Clearance](#).

**6. Is there a possibility that the aviator will be grounded due to the results of the CogScreen results?**

If the results were severe and were thought to identify significant cognitive deficits, the Special Issuance would be temporarily withdrawn while further evaluation is completed.

**7. Does the policy change apply to pilots/ATCS who are not yet on an Authorization for SSRI?**

Not at this time. There is no change to the current INITIAL Authorization requirements.