



Certification Update

Information About Current Issues

By Warren S. Silberman, DO, MPH

FAAMedXPress Update

FAAMedXPress is a new addition to the Aeromedical Certification Subsystem that will allow an airman to go to a Web site and electronically input his or her history data, thereby eliminating the need to submit a paper history form. In the last edition of the *Bulletin*, I informed you that we were going to make this system available to airmen by November 15, 2006. However, we encountered a medical-legal issue that caused us to delay the implementation of this new system element. The problem centers on the airman's ability to change the Form 8500-8 (FAA Flying Examination) after having submitted it to us.

To assure that the history is accurate and for us to document that any changes were actually made by the airman, he or she will not be able to make any changes until first discussing them with you. If you and the airman agree that changes are necessary, you will have to submit a paper version of the form that documents the changes. We will then take the paper form and scan it into our system. Unfortunately, the consequences of this issue will result in your having to submit a paper 8500-8 in the event of changes, but it is the only method we have to assure the accuracy of the data and to protect the integrity of the system.

These proposed additions will be completed by the end of January 2007, and we will then make the Web site available. I apologize for this delay.

Don't Be Fooled

The Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association (AOPA) has a benefit for its members called TurboMedical that allows a member to log on to the AOPA Web site and complete the front side of a simulated Form 8500-8 (medical history). TurboMedical looks just like the FAA medical form. Until just recently, it had the imprint of the FAA airmen medical certificate in the upper left-hand corner and a certificate number at the top.

Some AMEs have mistaken TurboMedical for the new FAAMedXPress. TurboMedical is not FAAMedXPress, and TurboMedical is not an FAA-approved form.

If an airman reports to your office with a completed TurboMedical form, we prefer that you have the airman transfer the information onto a valid FAA Form 8500-8. However, to accommodate our airmen, we will accept the TurboMedical form if it is signed in the presence of you or your staff and then attached to a blank 8500-8 that bears the number consistent with the number on the medical certificate or medical/student pilot certificate that is issued to the applicant. Both the TurboMedical form and 8500-8 should be sent to the Aerospace Medical Certification Division (AMCD) after the examination data are electronically transmitted to the AMCD.

Suggestion

This subject was covered in a previous *Bulletin* [e.g., AOPA's 'TurboMedical' is Not Approved as a Substitute for Form 8500-8," by Richard Jones, MD; Vol. 43, No. 2, p.1]. Each *Bulletin* is filled with pertinent information designed to keep you and your office staff informed and up to date. Once you have read it, please share it with your staff, and keep it on file for reference.

Distance Learning Course Procedures for AMEs

By Ridge Smith

AN OPTION AVAILABLE to aviation medical examiners to complete their required refresher training is by distance learning through two interactive, Internet-based AME courses: Multimedia Aviation Medical Examiner Refresher Course (MAMERC) and Clinical Aerospace Physiology Review for AMEs (CAPAME).

These courses may be substituted for attendance at an AME seminar at the three-year point between seminar attendance. Specifically, AMEs must perform refresher training every three years to maintain their designation.

This requirement may be satisfied by attending one of the AME seminars held six times yearly at various locations or by completing one of the on-line AME courses. However, no more than six years can elapse between attendance at "live" seminars.

Quirky Technical Problems

We need to make you aware of some problems we are currently experiencing with these on-line courses to help you avoid frustration if you choose to use them.

The on-line instructional courses were put into operation in 2002 and since that time, a combined total of over 1,700 AMEs have successfully completed these courses. A problem has been reported by some AMEs that the interactive course has not correctly recorded their progress in the course. Sometimes credit for individual modules of the course was dropped or completion of the final test was not recorded. We in the Education Division have not been able to determine the exact cause for this problem, or why some AMEs are affected while others are not.

If you experience any of the above

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