



## Certification Update

Information About Current Issues

By Warren S. Silberman, DO, MPH

### CLEARING UP ECG ISSUES

**H**ELLO, AGAIN, from the Aerospace Medical Certification Division in Oklahoma City! I have some great news to share with our aviation medical examiners in this edition of the *Bulletin*.

But first, some more about my last article in the *Bulletin*. There was an error in the chart of normal variants that was provided. The item that read “wandering arrhythmiamaker” should have read “wandering atrial pacemaker.” A wandering atrial pacemaker produces atrial beats that originate from multiple sites in the atrium at a normal rate, and p waves that appear different in morphology from one another.

The article on the reading of first-class electrocardiograms caused some controversy. You should personally review the electrocardiogram prior to issuing a medical certificate to an airman, unless it is normal or a normal variant. If you have a hospital perform the ECG and transmit it, you should have them fax a copy to your office so you can look at it.

I recommend that you give your technician or ECG provider a copy of the chart of normal variants. Tell them that they should not transmit an

abnormal ECG before you have had a chance to review it. You should not issue a certificate to an airman who has an abnormal ECG. You should get the airman evaluated and defer the examination to us for disposition.

### PRINT THOSE CERTIFICATES

Now for the good news that I promised in the first paragraph! All you AMEs who have chastised us for making you keep those ancient typewriters around can jump for joy (but don’t sell those typewriters yet!). Very soon, you will be able to print the medical certificate from AMCS! Yey! Strike up the music! Don’t send me flowers, just a pat on the back will do!

You will be able to print the certificate regardless of whether the airman uses FAAMedXPress or you perform the examination using our hard copy forms. I imagine that you will perform the print certificate task after you have seen the airman, as you should currently do. Once you input the data, you will click a button at the bottom of the page that asks you to “preview certificate.” This takes you to an HTML version of the certificate, so you can see if the information is accurate. If it is, you can then hit the “Print Certificate” button at the bottom of the page, and the certificate will print. At this point, the system will perform a validation against the airman’s medical history (this would only be applicable if the airman has had a prior examination. Don’t start dialing the phone to yell— you will still be able to print the certificate, even if this is a brand new airman!). If the airman has

had a previous exam denial, a prior exam submitted within the past 90 days, or has a pending legal action, you will be presented with a warning and will not be able to print the certificate. You will also get such a warning when you go to submit the examination into the Aerospace Medical Certification Subsystem.

If this is confusing to you, don’t worry, there will be a simple, informational manual on the AMCS Web site to give you instructions on how to print the certificate.

Some of you may now be asking yourselves, “You mean the FAA is going to allow us to print a medical certificate on plain white computer paper?” Yes, we are! If you turn the current hard copy medical certificate over, you will notice some preprinted information. When you print the medical certificate from your computer, it will require the airman to cut it out and fold it over with the required information still ending up on the back.

Just below the airman’s signature, there will be the airman’s Applicant ID number and a “control number,” which is actually the MID number of this current examination. Now, how hard do you think it would be for anyone to pick the correct ten-digit number (applicant validation ID) and twelve-digit number (MID)? The FAA Flight Standards inspectors who peruse these numbers during a ramp check will be able to detect falsified certificates when they compare these numbers to those in our database.

So that’s it folks. Have a great spring and summer.



*Dr. Silberman manages the Aerospace Medical Certification Division.*