



MAR 13 2017

Dear AME,

BasicMed is coming! Pending OMB approval of the new Comprehensive Medical Checklist, completion of the required airman training module, and a few other minor items, BasicMed is anticipated to be available to airmen on Monday **May 1, 2017**. While there are still a lot of details being finalized, we want you to have the following information to help you understand the new program and dispel the myths:

1. AMEs and the work you perform are still needed.
2. The FAA 3rd class medical certificate is NOT going away, nor are the requirements changing.
3. MedXPress will continue to be used for FAA medical certificate applications.
4. BasicMed is an alternative process in lieu of getting an FAA medical certificate which will allow airman to fly certain small aircraft.
5. Not all airmen will qualify for BasicMed, and not all airmen will want to use BasicMed.
6. Airmen who elect the BasicMed option must have had an FAA medical certificate valid for at least one day after July 14, 2006 that was not subsequently denied, suspended, revoked, or had any special authorization withdrawn. In addition, airmen who subsequently develop certain conditions will have to obtain a special issuance authorization (see below).

AME versus state licensed physician for BasicMed

As an AME, you are a designee of the FAA. You certify airmen by following guidelines and information in the AME guide and calling the Aerospace Medical Certification Division or a Regional Flight Surgeon when you have questions. A private physician signing the BasicMed checklist will be acting as a medical provider and not as a designee of the FAA. If you participate as an examining physician in BasicMed, you may want to check with your medical malpractice carrier to make sure this type of work is covered.

MedXPress vs BasicMed Comprehensive Medical Examination Checklist

The Comprehensive Medical Examination Checklist specified in the law is based on a previous FAA Form 8500-8 instead of the current MedXPress version. BasicMed users will no longer need to report substance-related arrests or medical disability benefits, nor will they report total pilot time.

Special Issuance vs Self Certification

A previously medically certificated airman (even with a Special Issuance) will be able to self-certify under BasicMed *unless* they develop any of the cardiac, psychiatric or neurologic

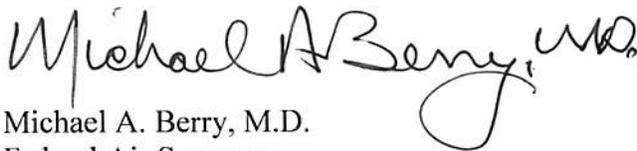
conditions as listed in the Advisory Circular (link below). Then, the airman must get a new FAA exam by an AME and go through the process of obtaining a Special Issuance medical certificate. If issued through that process, the airman may again elect to self-certify through BasicMed.

Self-Certification

Airmen electing BasicMed must take the online medical education course every 2 years and self-certify that: (1) the Comprehensive Medical Examination Checklist was followed and signed by their state-licensed physician within the last 48 months; (2) they are under the care of a state-licensed physician if they have been diagnosed with any medical condition that may impact their ability to fly; (3) they are under the care of a state-licensed medical specialist for any clinically diagnosed mental health or neurological condition; and (4) they understand the 14 CFR 61.53 medical prohibitions on serving as pilot in command or required flight crew member. They must also authorize a check of the National Drivers Registry.

Additional information can be found in the links below. Updated information will be sent as it becomes available via Aerospace Medical Certification Subsystem (AMCS) blasts. Please check your AMCS account for updates regularly. Thank you for your work as an AME and the great job you do to protect the safety of the National Air Space.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Berry, M.D.
Federal Air Surgeon

BasicMed Helpful Links for AMEs

www.faa.gov/go/basicmed

The first stop for General Information on BasicMed and FAQ

www.faa.gov/go/ame

AME help and resources (slides, FAQs)

http://www.faa.gov/documentlibrary/media/advisory_circular/ac_68-1.pdf

Advisory Circular 68-1

https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/media/final_rule_faa_2016_9157.pdf

Final Rule

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/636/text>

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