



Memorandum

Date: January 22, 2025

To: AAM-200, AAM-300, Regional Flight Surgeons, Aviation Medical Examiners (AMEs)

From: Penny Giovanetti, D.O., Director, Medical Specialties Division, AAM-200

Subject: Guidance for the Conduct of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology/Psychology Visits post COVID-19 Pandemic

This updates the guidance sent July 15, 2020.

Background:

The COVID-19 public health emergency ended May 11, 2023. In the community, there remains a mix of virtual and in-person mental health evaluation and care. The Federal Air Surgeon, in consultation with her staff and clinical consultants, continues to believe the gold standard for psychiatric, neuropsychological, and psychological evaluations is an in-person encounter. Further, there is little support for the use of telehealth in forensic settings.

Effective immediately:

1. All initial clinical evaluations must be accomplished in person, unless exception to policy is approved by AAM-200.
2. All psychometric testing must be conducted in person.
3. Some follow-up visits may be accomplished via video teleconferencing such as feedback sessions, antidepressant program follow-up, or as specified by the FAA.
4. Audio-only encounters remain unacceptable.
5. Your report must clearly indicate virtual or in-person encounter.
6. Virtual visits must adhere to current telehealth professional practice standards and occur via secure two-way synchronous video.
7. All encounters must conform to relevant professional ethical codes, standards and guidelines.