

Welcome to a further ME update.

Education

We are pleased to confirm the CAA Aviation Medicine CME to be run conjointly with the Aviation Medical Society of New Zealand (AMSNZ) conference. The CAA CME will be on Saturday afternoon and is free of charge. For the conference itself, refer to the AMSNZ website link: <http://www.amsnz.org.nz/membership.php>. Please ensure that you register for the sessions that you want to attend. The dates for the conference are Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th of September 2013 at the CAA in Wellington. Further details will be given to you at time of registration. See you there.

Introducing new staff

We welcome three additions to our team: *Gillian Brown* has been appointed as Licensing Adviser after working for several months for us in a temporary capacity. She deals principally with the AMC process. *Charlotte Hollingsworth* is the voice at the end of the helpdesk and is the “face” (read “voice”) of the Medical Team! She is also responsible for general administration, including records management etc. Last but not the least we have *Desrae Martin*. Desrae’s role is split between Medical and Licensing and is largely responsible for executive reporting.

Medical Examiners’ Absences

If you are going to be away for more than a few days, please ensure that we know about it. This is to enable us to answer questions by applicants who have queries. It is important to arrange for a colleague to continue any pending assessments that you may have. If you have AMCs in process, we will be happy to send the completed AMCs to your nominated colleague to ensure that no unnecessary delays occur in the certification of applicants whose livelihood depends on their certificates. Thank you to those MEs who notify us of their absences early.

First page of the application

Medical has a new notification process therefore; **you no longer** need to send to us the front page of the application. It remains critical however that you send your completed assessments **within five**

working days following completion. We have recently conducted an audit and a number of assessments are well over 5 days. The oldest is 2 years! This means the assessments have either not been completed, a concern itself, or completed but not sent. MEs are required to comply with their delegations, something that the Director will consider when renewing delegations.

Alcohol

Alcohol abuse remains a serious safety concern to aviation. We occasionally see applicants declaring a large consumption of alcoholic beverages without this fact being further considered by the ME. The most recent guidelines for safe alcohol drinking are 15 standards drinks per week for a man and 10 for a woman. More details can be found at: <http://www.alcoholdrughelp.org.nz> or the [Health Promotion Agency](#)

Class 2 – No IFR

We occasionally see Class 2 certificates being issued without the “**Not valid for flights under instruments flight rules**” when no audiogram has been undertaken or not undertaken within the time frame prescribed by the GD “Timing of routine Examinations”. Your attention in this regard is required.

Action on Medical Certificates

When issuing a notice of suspension we do require receiving a copy of all relevant documentation. If sending the notice by fax or e-mail and the associated information by snail mail, kindly indicate accordingly on the initial mailing cover page.

General Medical Examination over 90 days

A GME that is over 90 days is no longer valid. It should be repeated if a certificate has not been issued within that timeframe. Other routine examinations are valid for 12 months. The situation occurs most often because of delays in obtaining information, or following a complex AMC. When repeating the GME it is important to inquire about any change in condition since the application and to document your inquiry.

With kind regards from the CMU team.