



Your Guide to a Smooth FAA Medical Application

Considerations When Applying for an FAA Medical

This checklist is designed to reduce application processing time for diagnosed conditions requiring FAA review. It is critical to have as much required documentation as possible completed and submitted at the time of your medical exam.

The FAA prescribes medical certification standards for pilots in the interest of aviation safety. **Fitness for Duty** covers both long-term medical certification and real-time readiness. A pilot can be medically certificated but not fit for duty due to required wait times after medication, adverse side effects at altitude, or fatigue. Per **14 CFR §61.53(a)**, a certificate holder may not serve as a required flight crewmember while any condition, medication, or treatment would prevent them from meeting certificate requirements.

The good news: while many conditions are reportable, relatively few are ultimately disqualifying when paired with the right treatment and favorable outcomes.

Pre-Exam Checklist

- 1. Compile and review your complete, detailed medical history.
- 2. Compile a list of all **prescription and non-prescription** medications you are currently taking.
- 3. Review your history and medications against the FAA medical history questions (below) and the FAA Do Not Fly / Do Not Issue List.
- 4. Consult your AME or a pilot advocacy group about any questions or concerns **prior** to submitting your application.
- 5. Complete the MedXPress medical application and **print a copy** for your records.
- 6. Schedule your physical exam with an AME — provide your MedXPress Confirmation Number only when you are ready to commit to the exam.
- 7. Bring **all supporting documentation** to your appointment. Missing records often force the AME to defer your application to the FAA.
- 8. If deferred, supply any additional documentation to the FAA as soon as possible.
- 9. Once certificated, fly safely and in compliance with 14 CFR §61.53(a).

FAA Medical History Questions

Each item below must be answered **Yes** or **No** on your application. These questions apply to **current diagnoses and any historical diagnosis in your lifetime**. For every **Yes**, provide a description and approximate date in the EXPLANATIONS box. If previously reported with no change, you may note "PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, NO CHANGE" — but you must still mark **Yes**.

■ Frequent or severe headaches	■ Substance dependence, failed drug test, or illegal substance use in the last two years
■ Dizziness or fainting spells	■ Alcohol dependence or abuse
■ Unconsciousness for any reason	■ Suicide attempt
■ Eye or vision trouble (except glasses)	■ Motion sickness requiring medication
■ Hay fever or allergies	■ Military medical discharge
■ Asthma or lung disease	■ Medical rejection by military service
■ Heart or vascular trouble	■ Rejection for life or health insurance
■ High or low blood pressure	■ Admission to a hospital
■ Stomach, liver, or intestinal trouble	■ Other illness, disability, or surgery
■ Kidney stone or blood in urine	■ Medical disability benefits
■ Diabetes	■ DUI / DWI conviction or administrative action affecting driving privileges
■ Neurological disorders: epilepsy, seizures, stroke, paralysis, etc.	■ History of non-traffic convictions (misdemeanor or felony)
■ Mental disorders of any sort: depression, anxiety, etc.	

Additional Guidance

The FAA's online **Guide for Aviation Medical Examiners** and the **MedXPress User Guide** contain detailed dispositions for most diagnoses on this list. Always advise your AME of any "Yes" response **before** your visit. Be cautious of sources that may be outdated or based on anecdotal experience — FAA standards are updated regularly.

Questions about your FAA medical?

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This document is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical or legal advice. Always consult your AME regarding your specific situation.

