

# Medical Certification

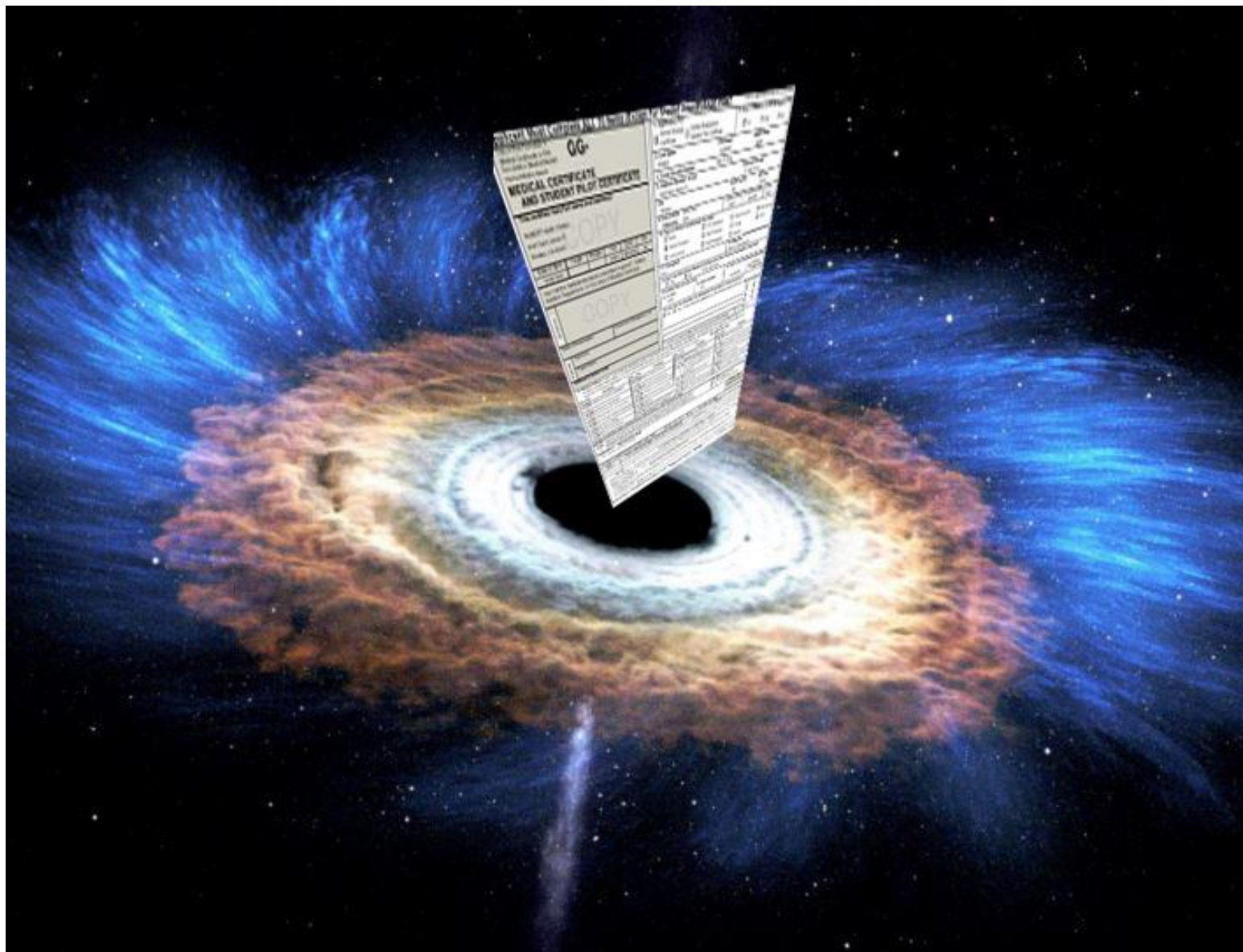
## *How Pilots Can Help Avoid a “Black Hole”*

**Marcel Dionne, MD, MSPH**  
**Alaska Regional Flight Surgeon**

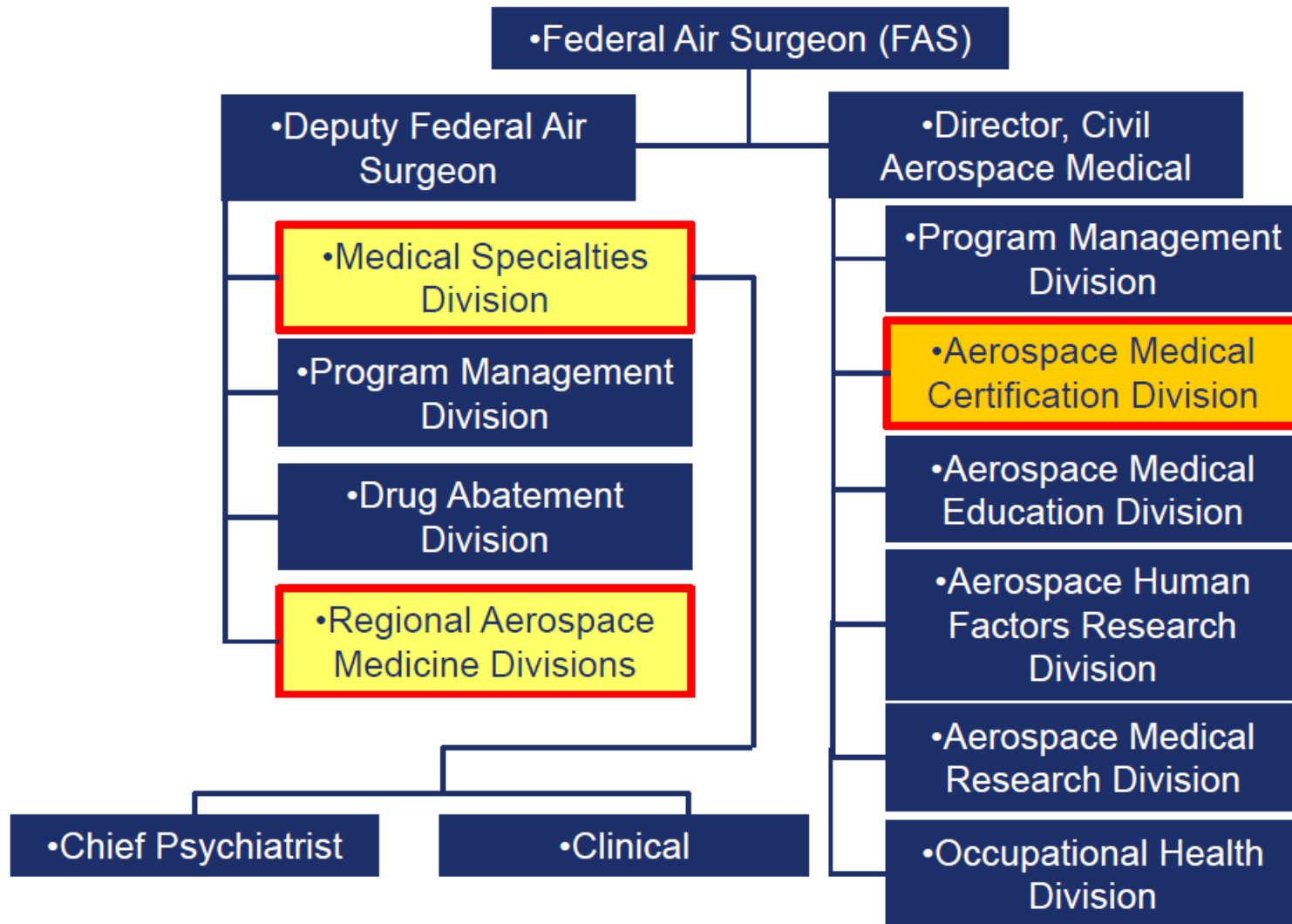
November 10, 2020



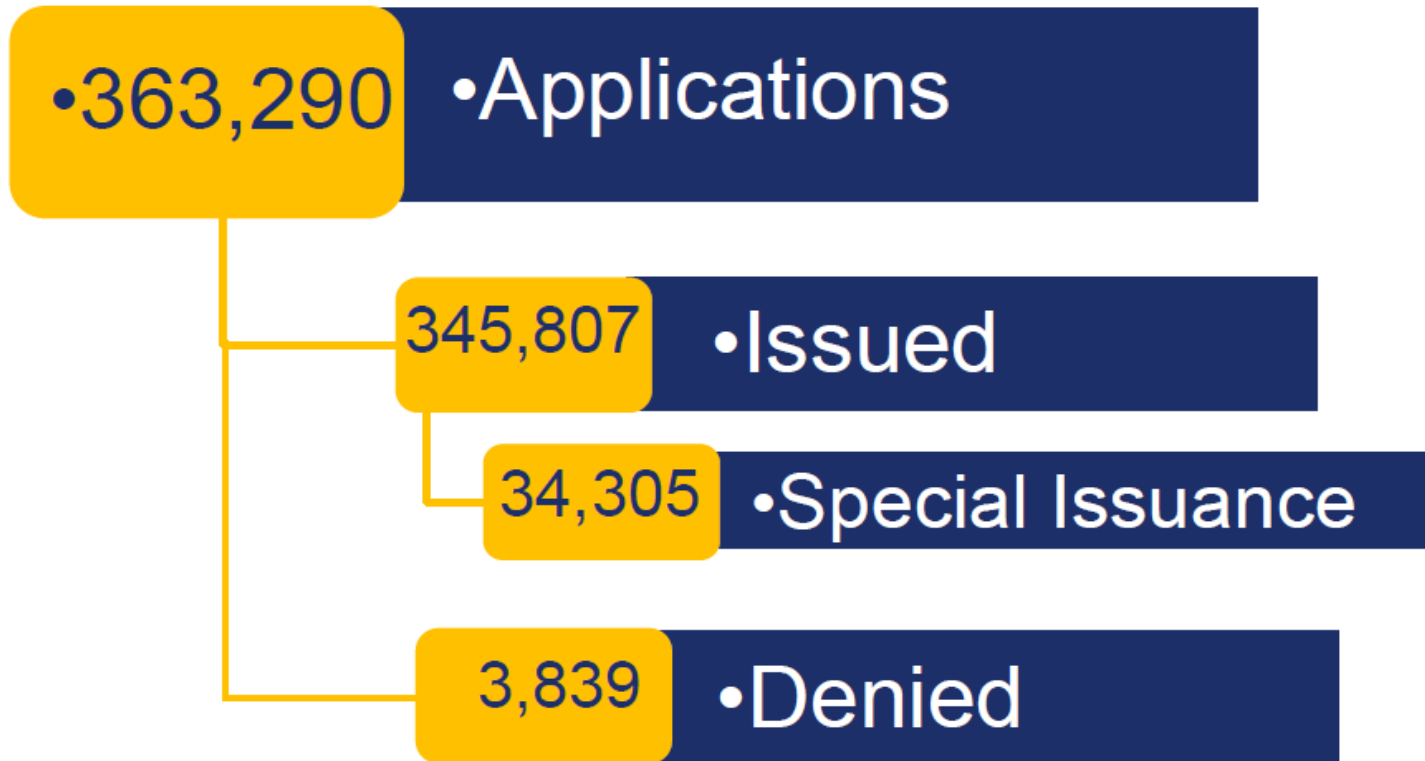
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**



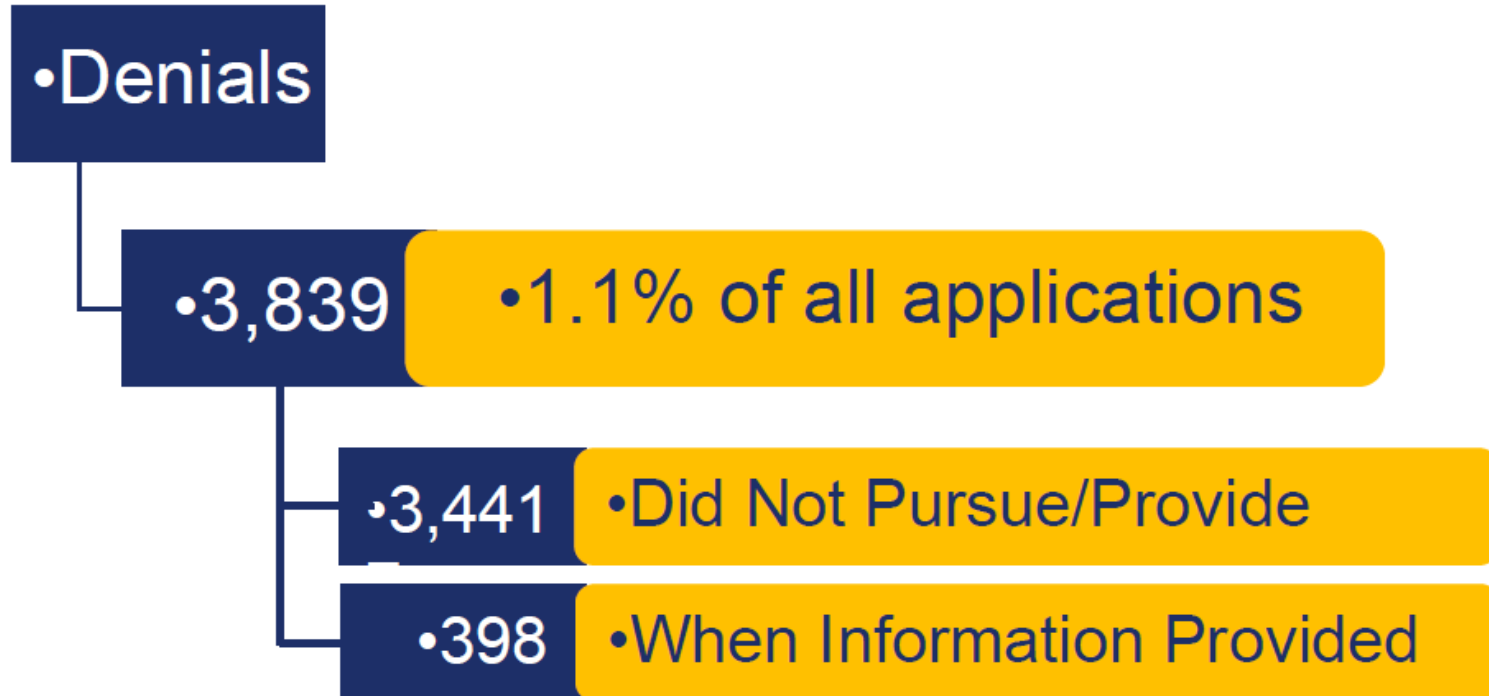
# Office of Aerospace Medicine



# Medical Certification Stats (FY 2020)



# •Medical Certification Stats (FY 2020)



# Overview

**What are my chances?**

**97% of all Airmen who walk into their AME's office  
Will walk out with their Certificate...**

**Most common reason for Denial is FTP! (“Failure to Provide”)**

**OK, so I wasn't one of the lucky ones, now what?**

- I tried calling OKC and the operator took my message
- I thought my AME had sent all of that in already?
- Why does the FAA keep sending me letters?
- Can I fly while I'm waiting for you guys to get back?





# OK How did I get here??

## Medications

- Narcotics, Antihistamines, Sleep Aids, Psych drugs, any Sedating drugs, Chemotherapy drugs, etc.
- Ask your AME if your Rx's are OK
- If he doesn't know, he or you, can call the RFS

## The exam should match your history

- Your scars don't match your history
- Example - You had a head injury and provide no additional info



# OK How did I get here??

## **You are on a Special Issuance (SI) or AASI**

- You didn't bring a copy of your letter to the AME
- You or the AME didn't send in the required reports
- The "current" reports are not current (Old)

## **You submitted reports to us but didn't look at them**

- It has Rx's or Diagnoses that are incorrect (or not disclosed previously)
- It's an un-readable copy (Especially ECGs/ETT's)
- *We actually look at the reports....*





# OK How did I get here??

## **This FAA Letter makes no sense!**

- You're right, sometimes they don't. It's OK to ask us if you got one of the "Stupid" letters.
- Call the Regional office

## **OK I got a condition that's just a bit weird but I'm OK**

- Sometimes these cases need additional review
- FAA Consultants and Panels



# OK How did I get here??

## FAA Consultants

- Not FAA Employees, but picked for their expertise and understanding of aviation medicine.
- Help develop policy and standards
- Covers the spectrum from CT Surgery, Neurology, Infectious Disease, Heme-Onc, to Nephrology, etc.

## Panels

- Cardiology and Neurology meet regularly throughout the year.



# OK How did I get here??

**The FAA Letter says I have 60 or 90 days to send it in or else!**

- I can't get the Doctor to give me the reports!
- I don't have the time right now, or \$, or my Insurance won't pay for the tests...
- The Doctor says I don't need to do it!
- The Dog ate my reports...
- ***Call the Regional Office for an Extension***



# OK How did I get here??

**OK I got a new condition and they named a disease after me....**

- Those cases will go to an FAA FAS Consultant
- Then to the FAS Office for Review and Decision

**Some of those Tests are Expensive or Dangerous!**

- I don't like getting Nuc'd on my ETT every year!
- I don't want to pay \$5-10K in Neuropsychological Testing to prove I'm NOT nuts!



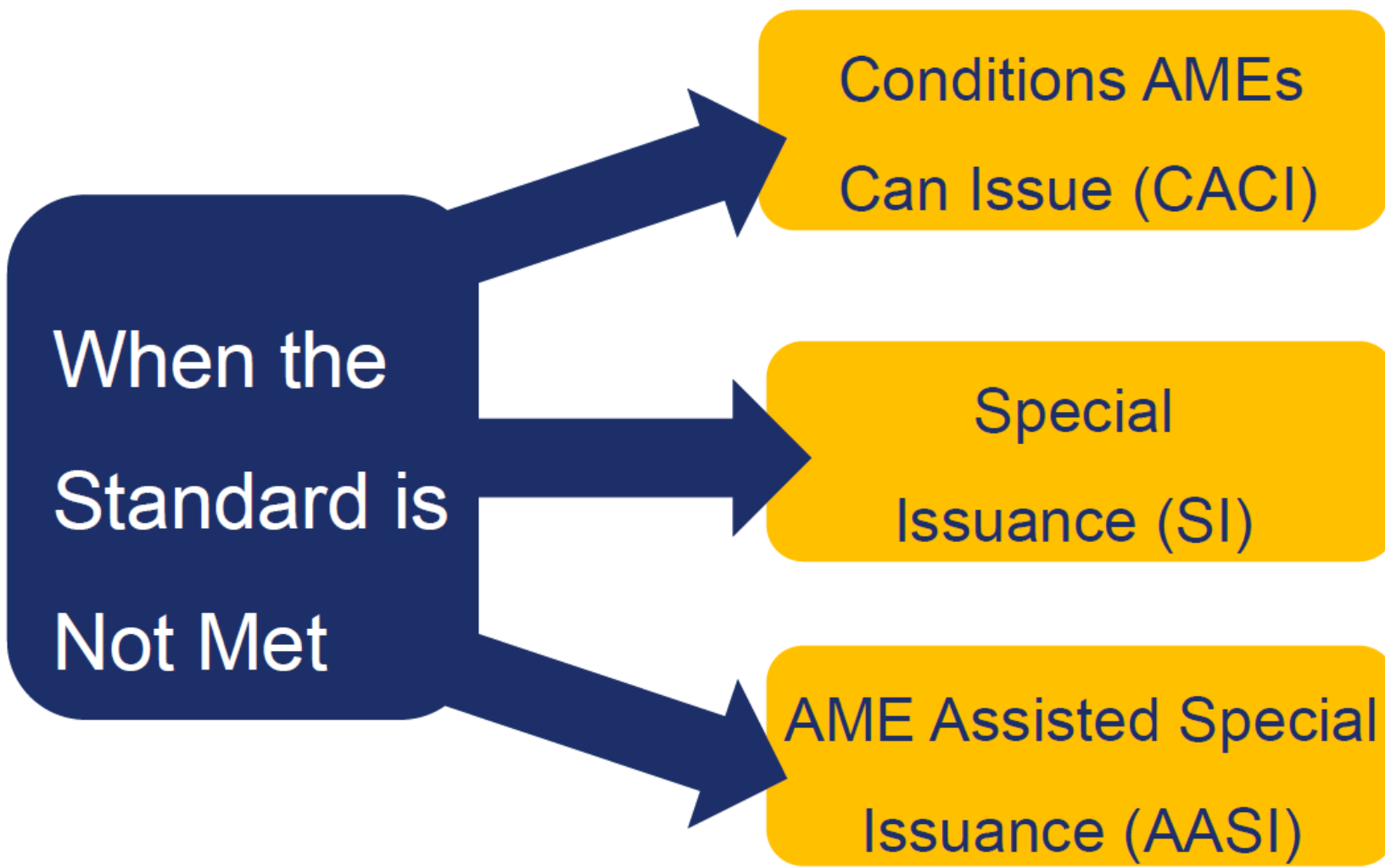
# OK How did I get here??

**I got one of those FTP (Failure to Provide) Letters!**

- The number #1 Cause of Denials...
- If you send us what we ask for, we'll pick up where you left off.
- If your Exam has expired you'll need a new one
- **We don't work cases with expired Exams**



When the  
Standard is  
Not Met



```
graph LR; A[When the Standard is Not Met] --> B[Conditions AMEs Can Issue (CACI)]; A --> C[Special Issuance (SI)]; A --> D[AME Assisted Special Issuance (AASI)];
```

The diagram features a dark blue rounded rectangle on the left containing the text 'When the Standard is Not Met'. Three dark blue arrows originate from the right side of this rectangle and point to three separate yellow rounded rectangles on the right. The top yellow box contains 'Conditions AMEs Can Issue (CACI)', the middle one contains 'Special Issuance (SI)', and the bottom one contains 'AME Assisted Special Issuance (AASI)'.

Conditions AMEs  
Can Issue (CACI)

Special  
Issuance (SI)

AME Assisted Special  
Issuance (AASI)



# Where can I get more info?

**The AME Guide is available online (updated monthly)**

- You don't have to be a Doctor to read it (but it helps)

*You can "Google" FAA AME Guide"*

- **CACI (Conditions AMEs Can Issue)**

*You can "Google" FAA CACI worksheets*

There are **18 Worksheets** are available online





# •Conditions AMEs Can Issue (CACI)

## CACI Conditions

Arthritis	Hypertension
Asthma	Hypothyroidism
Bladder Cancer	Migraine/Chronic HA
Breast Cancer	Mitral Valve Repair
Chronic Kidney Disease	Pre-Diabetes
Colitis	Prostate Cancer
Colon Cancer	Renal Cancer
Glaucoma	Retained Kidney Stones
Hepatitis C – Chronic	Testicular Cancer



# CACI Worksheet

The Examiner must review a current status report by the treating physician and any supporting documents to determine the applicant's eligibility for certification. If the applicant **meets ALL the acceptable certification criteria** listed below, the Examiner can issue. Applicants for first- or second- class must provide this information annually; applicants for third-class must provide the information with each required exam.

## •Directions

## •Required parameters

## •AME must note

AME MUST REVIEW	ACCEPTABLE CERTIFICATION CRITERIA
Treating physician finds the condition stable on current regimen and no changes recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/> None or mild to moderate symptoms with no significant limitations to range of motion, lifestyle, or activities
Cause of Arthritis	Acceptable causes are limited to: <input type="checkbox"/> Rheumatoid (limited to joint), psoriatic, or osteoarthritis
Acceptable Medications	<input type="checkbox"/> One or more of the following:  Oral steroid which does not exceed equivalent of prednisone 20 mg/day (see <a href="#">steroid conversion calculator</a> ), Methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil - see mandatory eye evaluation requirement below), NSAIDS.
Complete blood count (CBC) and complete metabolic panel	<input type="checkbox"/> Within 90 days <input type="checkbox"/> Normal CBC, Liver Function Test, and Creatinine
FAA Report of Eye Evaluation  Form 8500-7 is required if hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) is used.	<input type="checkbox"/> 8500-7 Favorable and no concerns  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

**AME MUST NOTE in Block 60 one of the following:**

- ☐ CACI qualified arthritis.
- ☐ Not CACI qualified arthritis. Issued per valid SI/AASI. (Submit supporting documents.)
- ☐ NOT CACI qualified arthritis. I have deferred. (Submit supporting documents.)



# Where can I get more info?



# REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICES



## We're Here to Help!



Federal Aviation  
Administration

# How do I find these RFS guys?

## You can “Google” FAA Regional Flight Surgeon

- Alaskan - ***Marcel Dionne M.D*** (907) 271-5431
- Central - *Daniel Berry D.O., Ph.D.* (816) 329-3260
- Eastern - *Harriet Lester M.D.* (718) 553-3394
- Great Lakes - *Joye Holmes M.D.-* (847) 294-7216
- New England - *Joseph H Ray M.D* (781) 238-7300
- NW Mountain – *Steven Veronneau.* (425) 227-2990
- Southern - *Susan Northrup, M.D.* (404) 305-6151
- Southwest – *Denise Baisden M.D.* (817) 222-5304
- Western Pacific - *Stephen Griswold, M.D.* (310) 725-3750
- International & Federal – *Judith Frazier*(405) 954-4832





# I can't reach this RFS guy!

## You can contact any Region for help

We can see reports on any Airman out there

- You don't have to speak to the Doc, often one of our Airman Certification **Analysts** can help you
- Still not satisfied, ask to speak to a Flight Surgeon (most Regions have more than one)
- We will call you back, if we are not in the office, leave a good number or email to reach you.







# The Dreaded FAA Letter



Great Lakes Regional Medical Office  
Aerospace Medicine Division, AGL-300

2300 East Devon  
Des Plaines IL 60018-4686

APRIL 11, 2018

OSHKOSH WI

Ref: PI #  
MID #  
APP ID #

## AUTHORIZATION FOR AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER (AME) ASSISTED SPECIAL ISSUANCE OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

Dear Mr.

I have reviewed the information submitted by you in support of your request for an airman medical certificate. The medical information reveals a history of Asthma. You are ineligible for Medical Certification under Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) revised part 67; specifically under paragraph(s) or section(s) .113(b)(c), 67.213(b)(c), 67.313(b)(c). I have determined, however, that you may be granted an Authorization for Special Issuance of the enclosed Third-Class Airman Medical Certificate as provided for in Title 14 of the CFRs, Section 67.401. The enclosed Certificate is valid until March 31, 2021, it requires your signature, and it supersedes all previously issued Certificates.

This Authorization shall be effective until withdrawn by the Agency and supersedes any previous grant of Authorization.

**This Authorization expires: March 31, 2024**

Consideration for continued Certification under this Authorization will be contingent on the following:

1. You are required to have your regular Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical examination at the frequency prescribed under the provisions of Title 14 of the CFRs, Section 61.23. Your next Third-Class FAA physical examination will be due in March 2021.
2. Beginning March 2021, and at 36-month intervals thereafter, you are required to submit a current status report from your treating Physician regarding your history of Asthma, as outlined on the enclosed specification sheet.

If your FAA flight physical is not required at the time your follow-up reports are due, no FAA physical examination needs to be performed.



Federal Aviation  
Administration

# It has instructions for You and your AME

## It helps if you actually try and read it...

This Authorization shall be effective until withdrawn by the Agency and supersedes any previous grant of Authorization.

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2. **Beginning March 2021, and at 36-month intervals thereafter,** you are required to submit a current status report from your treating Physician regarding your history of Asthma, as outlined on the enclosed specification sheet.

**If your FAA flight physical is not required at the time your follow-up reports are due, no FAA physical examination needs to be performed.**



# You can skip your AME

Since review of your medical records and issuance of a new Certificate are time consuming, the AME will likely find it necessary to charge you a fee for these services. If you wish to avoid such a fee, you may submit your follow-up reports to the Aerospace Medical Certification Division yourself without contacting your AME. You must include the following:

1. The current status report(s).
2. The AME cover sheet (enclosed).

Please forward the aforementioned in one mailing to:

**Regular 1st Class Mail**

Federal Aviation Administration  
Aerospace Medical Certification Division  
Medical Appeals Section  
CAMI Bldg 13, Room 308 AAM-300  
P.O. Box 25082  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

or

**Special Delivery/Overnight Mail**

Federal Aviation Administration  
Aerospace Medical Certification Division  
Medical Appeals Section  
6500 S. Macarthur Blvd.  
CAMI Bldg 13, Room 308 AAM-300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73169

The information should be obtained and sent in one mailing to the AMCD 30-60 days prior to the expiration of your Medical Certificate.







# THANK YOU!

## Questions??



Federal Aviation  
Administration

# Contact Information

**Marcel V. Dionne, MD, MSPH**

**Brenda Gregory, Airman Med Certification Analyst**

FAA Office of Aerospace Medicine

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