



Update for MEs

No. 2/2022

A brief update from the Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation Medicine Team

May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this newsletter which aims to provide updates, reminders and some general regulatory and clinical aviation medicine education.

COVID-19

It seems we are now hopefully in the downhill phase of the Omicron outbreak which is placing immense pressure on frontline workers, so for those of you at the coalface, your efforts are most appreciated. We are aware of these pressures and considering them in the context of our flight safety and regulatory obligations.

Return to flying post Covid pericarditis

We are aware of some pilots with Covid (infection and vaccine) related cardiac issues; we have encountered to date a few cases of pericarditis.

As Covid is still in its infancy and evolving our position is subject to change, however our current stance, in general terms, is that for mild cases of Covid related pericarditis a return to flying or ATC duty is usually acceptable 6 weeks following diagnosis if the symptoms have resolved completely, and the ECG and CRP have returned to baseline/normal thus demonstrating that inflammation has settled.

Each situation is unique so please feel free to contact us for further discussion on the matter.

Colour Vision Deficiency (CVD) Air Traffic Controller (ATC)

As you are aware there have been some recent major changes in relation to colour vision requirements for class 1 and 2 medical certificates. These are detailed at:

<https://www.aviation.govt.nz/licensing-and-certification/medical-certification/colour-vision/>

The recent review did not address Class 3 medical certificate holders.

Our current position is that applicants for class 3 medical certificates who have a CVD should be considered as having a condition of aeromedical significance and processed via the 27B(2) AMC pathway.

Ortho K and Rigid Gas Permeable (RGP) Contact Lenses

Occasionally, usually in the context of Keratoconus we have come across use of Ortho K lens. Please be on the lookout for them.

Ortho K lens are generally not acceptable. RGP may be acceptable under certain circumstances. Please check with us should you encounter such lenses. The matter is detailed to some extent in the ophthalmology section of the medical manual under the *visual aids* subsection.

Link to the relevant section is: <https://www.aviation.govt.nz/assets/publications/medical-manual/medical-manual-part-3-11.pdf>

ME training

An online ME CME session is scheduled for 18May2022 at 5-6pm NZ time. If you have not been invited please contact Andrea at andrea.keenan@caa.govt.nz should you wish to attend. Thanks Tim and Andrea

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) – Australia has invited AMSNZ members to join their monthly online DAME Grand Rounds via Microsoft Teams. To have an invitation emailed to you, contact Keeley at dame.liaison@casa.gov.au and ask to join the CASA Grand Rounds. Thanks Greg van der Hulst

An in-person CAA ME day is planned for Christchurch 02SEPT2022. Invites to follow soon.

Looking at the Law

A reminder that there are exceptions to the reporting requirement detailed in 27C of the Civil Aviation Act 1990.

These are detailed in the GD (15APR2019).

<https://www.aviation.govt.nz/assets/licensing-and-certification/medical/general-directions-temporary-medical-conditions.pdf>

With best regards from

The Aviation Medicine Team