



New Hampshire  
Aerospace



## FLIGHT SURGEON'S BRIEFING

# BASICMED

There are a tremendous number of questions out there regarding third class medical reform, or what the FAA is calling the “BasicMed” program.

As of May 1st, 2017, a pilot may use BasicMed to attest to his or her fitness to fly for any operation that would otherwise require a Third Class Medical Certificate. The BasicMed examination may be performed by a state licensed physician rather than an FAA Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). To operate under BasicMed, the pilot must meet the following conditions:

1. Possess a valid driver’s license;
  - ONLY a driver’s license. A passport, state issued ID, military ID etc. are all unacceptable.
  - The airman must comply with any limitations on the license (corrective lenses, etc.).
2. Have held a medical certificate at any time after July 15, 2006;
  - The medical must have been valid on this date, thus you qualify:
    - if you were under 40 on the date of issuance of your medical and it was issued on or after July 1st, 2003<sup>1</sup>.
    - if you were over 40 on the date of issuance of your medical and it was issued on or after July 1st, 2004<sup>1</sup>.
3. Have not had the most recently held medical certificate revoked, suspended, or withdrawn;
  - You can’t “choose” from any of your medical certificates in the last 10 years, it must be the most recent.
  - If your medical was suspended, even if it was reinstated, it cannot be used for BasicMed and you must get another medical certificate (of any class).
4. Have not had the most recent application for airman medical certification completed and denied;
5. Have not had the most recent special issuance withdrawn.
6. Have taken a medical education course within the past 24 calendar months;
7. Have completed a comprehensive medical examination by a state licensed physician within the past 48 months;
  - NOT calendar months. To fly on July 19, 2021 you must have been examined on or before July 19, 2017.
  - Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners are not state licensed physicians.

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<sup>1</sup> Some authorities (eg: AOPA) are saying date of issue July 15th 2003/2004. This does not appear to be consistent with the wording of the regulation due to the “24 calendar month” validity period of the medical certificate. However, if you fall into the window between July 1st and July 15th, I would recommend investigating further.

8. Be under the care of a physician for certain medical conditions;
  - “Any condition” that might affect the safety of flight.
  - Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners are not state licensed physicians.
9. Have been found eligible for special issuance of a medical certificate for certain specified mental health, neurological, or cardiovascular conditions;
  - Mental Health:
    - Personality disorder
    - Psychosis
    - Bi-polar disorder
    - Substance dependence in the last two years
  - Neurological:
    - Epilepsy
    - Disturbance of consciousness without an adequate medical explanation
    - Transient loss of control of neurologic function without an adequate medical explanation
  - Cardiovascular:
    - Myocardial infarction
    - Coronary heart disease that has required treatment
    - Cardiac valve replacement
    - Heart replacement
10. Consent to a National Driver Register check;
11. Fly only certain small aircraft, at a limited altitude and speed, and only within the United States;
  - Flight type: Day or night, VFR or IFR.
  - Total passengers: Not more than 6 occupants.
  - Aircraft Limits: Not more than 6 seats, higher than 18,000 feet or faster than 250 KIAS.
12. Not fly for compensation or hire.
  - You can flight instruct using BasicMed, since you are not FLYING for compensation or hire, you are TEACHING for compensation.

The airman does not need to possess proof of participation in the BasicMed program while operating the aircraft. However, such proof must be made available to any FAA inspector or other competent authority upon demand (i.e. a ramp check), similar to a request for a logbook.



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