



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
2300 E STREET NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO  
BUMEDINST 6410.9  
BUMED-M3F8  
7 Apr 2005

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6410.9

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
To: All Ships and Stations Having Medical Personnel

Subj: MEDICAL MONITORING FLIGHT PERSONNEL IN LOCATIONS WHERE  
FLIGHT SURGEONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE

Ref: (a) MANMED, chapter 15  
(b) OPNAVINST 3710.7T

1. Purpose. To provide guidelines for the medical monitoring and issuance of flight grounding and clearance notices for aviation personnel assigned to sea or shore based activities where flight surgeons are not available on a regular basis. This is a complete revision and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6410.5A.

3. Background. Under modern Navy and Marine Corps operational concepts, aviation activities are deploying to remote shore bases and to ships that do not have flight surgeons. In these instances, routine medical care may be performed by primary care physicians, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners or Independent Duty Corpsmen (IDC). The adverse effects of many self-prescribed "over-the-counter" type medications, as well as many drugs dispensed by prescription, have been long recognized as detrimental to flight safety. Aircraft accidents caused by such medications have been documented. Other complications unique to flying are inherent in many disease entities and treatment regimens. It is necessary to assure that all flight personnel are physically qualified while engaged in flight operations. A commanding officer of a squadron or officer-in-charge of an activity may relieve from flying duty an individual deemed physically unfit for such duty upon the recommendation of a medical department representative (not restricted to a flight surgeon) per references (a) and (b). The commanding officer or officer-in-charge may authorize resumption of flying duty on the recommendation of a flight surgeon.

4. Scope. The provisions of this instruction apply only to Medical Department and aviation personnel in those remote areas where the services of a flight surgeon are not available on a regular basis.

5. Policy

a. The authority to issue a NAVMED 6410/1 (Rev. 5/90), Grounding Notice (Aeromedical), recommendation to a commanding officer or officer-in-charge is given to all medical department personnel.

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b. The authority to issue a NAVMED 6410/2 (Rev. 5/90), Clearance Notice (Aeromedical), prior to aircrew members returning to duty involving flying, is the responsibility of aviation trained medical officers (Flight Surgeons or Aviation Medical Examiners).

c. The authority to issue a NAVMED 6410/2 (Rev. 5/90) Clearance Notice (Aeromedical), may be given to an IDC, physician assistant, or non-aviation trained medical officer when flight personnel are stationed in remote or isolated locations where a flight surgeon is not available; follow procedures outlined in paragraph 6a below.

## 6. Procedure

a. Aircrew must be thoroughly evaluated by the medical provider to ensure that they have fully recovered from the condition that resulted in the temporary grounding. The medical provider then may issue an aeromedical clearance notice to aircrew after consulting with a flight surgeon via e-mail, verbal communication, or message. The consultation must be obtained from a flight surgeon prior to issuing an aeromedical clearance. An entry into the aircrew member's outpatient medical record providing the following information is required: "Consultation with Dr. (flight surgeon's name), (phone number and/or e-mail address) of (flight surgeon's command), occurred on (date) and return to a flying status was approved." Under no circumstances will an aircrew member be issued a clearance notice while on medication without concurrence from a flight surgeon.

b. Requests for waiver of the annual aviation physical examination or physiological training for flight personnel falling within the scope of this instruction will be handled per reference (b).

7. Action. The Naval Medical Education and Training Command (NMETC) is directed to incorporate basic aerospace medicine training into the curriculum for advanced hospital corpsman and the refresher training provided prior to reporting to units with an aviation capability. This training shall encompass all aspects of aviation medicine and will not be restricted to helicopter operations.

8. Forms. NAVMED 6410/1 (Rev. 5/90), Grounding Notice (Aeromedical) and NAVMED 6410/2 (Rev. 5/90), Clearance Notice (Aeromedical) are available at <http://navymedicine.med.navy.mil/default.cfm?seltab=directives> at the forms tab; local reproduction is authorized.



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