

Guidelines for Clinical Status Report

Dear Doctor,

When a pilot has a medical condition that is disqualifying for flight duty, he or she is often able to get a waiver from the standards if that condition is such that it does not pose a risk of sudden or subtle incapacitation while flying. The assessment of the pilot's treating physician is an important factor in this decision. Although we often receive brief "return to work" notes, the Federal Aviation Administration does not expect you to make the determination whether a given pilot is safe to fly. The Aerospace Medical Certification Division in Oklahoma City takes that responsibility. What they need from you is a complete clinical picture with which to make an informed determination.

The document used to provide this information is the Clinical Status Report (CSR). A CSR that is useful to the FAA will read very similar to a typical History & Physical. The doctors in Oklahoma City are specifically looking for the following:

- A complete history of the problem
- Associated risk factors, family history and best estimation of etiology if not obvious
- Other pertinent medical or surgical history
- Findings on physical exam, including vital signs
- Results of any testing you have performed
- Assessment and/or clinical diagnosis
- Current treatment regimen, including specific dosages and side effects (or lack thereof) of all medications
- Prognosis to include best estimate of probability of recurrence, sudden or subtle incapacitation due to the condition or other adverse sequelae

The FAA may require additional laboratory, radiology or other specialized testing depending upon the specific condition. We always advise our clients to value their health first and defer to their treating physicians for questions about appropriate treatment, leaving maintenance of medical certification as a secondary priority. Usually there is no conflict since a healthy pilot is a safe pilot. Our physicians are always happy to answer questions from other professionals regarding the information needed by their flying patients to maintain certification and the associated aeromedical issues involved.