

Message from the Chief Medical Officer

Dear AME

As many of you are aware, Ray Johnston has now retired from the CAA. He has taken on the role of the Registrar of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and therefore many of us will be able to keep in regular contact with him.

Rob Hunter has become the Head of the Aviation Health Unit and Stuart Mitchell has moved from the Head of the Aeromedical Centre to the Head of the Aeromedical Section. Ewan Hutchison was the successful applicant for the post of Head of the Aeromedical Centre, and for the time being will retain responsibility for the overall management of the oversight of AMEs.

Dawn Akyürek is currently on maternity leave and I am delighted to announce that she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Yasmin, in July. Jane Miller has stepped in to support the Medical Department for AME administration whilst Dawn is away.

We have also been very pleased to welcome Jonathan Spencer to the Aeromedical Centre. Some of you will remember Jonathan from the last time that he worked for the CAA, 20 years ago. Andy Tobias and Mike Glanfield have also joined the Aeromedical Centre staff on a part-time basis, and Nigel Dowdall is working part-time in the Aeromedical Section. As all four of our new recruits are AMEs, many of you will know them very well. Their enthusiasm for aviation medicine and depth of experience has already proved extremely beneficial for all of us.

Whilst on the subject of staff changes, Jo Galvin will be getting married on 11 September and we wish her and her future husband, Mark, every happiness for the

future. Jo's married name will be Montague.

To assist you in keeping track of 'who is doing what' you will find an organisational chart with this newsletter.

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a relaxing and recuperative summer holiday.

With best wishes and kind regards

Sally

Audit and Oversight

AME Annual Return

Thank you to all the doctors who returned their annual return on time. By now, you should have received a letter from us summarising your activities as an AME during 2009. This will hopefully be a useful addition to your CPD folder. We are aware of an issue in the letter concerning the number of medicals undertaken in 2009. Only those relating to UK licence holders were noted and any undertaken for applicants whose state of licence issue is not the UK were not included. This will be reviewed to see how this can be managed for future years. Those AMEs who did not submit an annual return (other than those recently approved) should also have received a letter from us and need to respond as soon as possible. We are happy to receive any feedback, positive or negative, on the process so that we can improve it for future years.

AME Seminars

Just a reminder that information on the AME Seminars, which are due to take place across the country, have now been published. Details can be found under item number 0072 in the Notification Index:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7860> and in

'Forthcoming Events' in the AME Area of our website at:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pa>

[getype=90&pageid=9562](#), along with an online form and details of the agenda.

Good Practice

A recent call from a vigilant AME highlighted the importance checking an applicant’s most recent medical certificate before undertaking a medical. The applicant in question claimed to have a class 1 certificate issued by another national authority but could not produce this. Instead, a licence number was given. The AME called the AMS and spoke to one of our caseworkers, who advised him not to perform the medical. The caseworker called the other national authority and it transpired that although the pilot had had a class 1 medical, it was invalid because of action that had been taken by the authority.

Aeromedical Standards

Applicants who have had LASIK

If you are assessing an applicant who has had laser in-situ keratomileusis (LASIK) since their last medical or prior to their initial medical then please do not issue a medical certificate without first obtaining a report which must include:

- Pre-operative refractive error measurements
- Post-operative and current refractive error measurements
- Confirmation that the applicant experiences no complications such as abnormal contrast & glare sensitivity

Their pre- and post-operative refractive error measurements should meet the requirements in JAR-FCL 3 and they should have no complications. Otherwise please complete the medical and defer it to the AMS.

Hearing Limitations

As indicated in a notification to AMEs in 2009, there have been changes in the

hearing limitations. Previously a pilot whose hearing did not meet JAR limits had an SSLAUD limitation added to their certificate, which indicated that they need an annual audiogram. We have been gradually changing the limitations on certificates to SSLFHA, indicating that they need to submit the results of a functional hearing test on an annual basis. Please note that pilots who have an SSLFHA limitation, require an audiogram at the normal intervals for their level of certification/ age, which may not necessarily be annually. Please see item 0063 (page 41 of 137) in the Notification Index:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7860>

Pilots whose JAA state of licence issue is not the UK

We have had correspondence from other JAA authorities who have received medical forms from UK approved AMEs for applicants whose state of licence issue is not the UK. Please be aware that there are a few JAA limitations that the UK does not use, but which are used by other member states eg VML, SIC, RXO. As part of your practice you should require the applicant to provide you with a copy of his current/last certificate. If you see that this has limitations, which you do not have a stamp for then, once you have completed the actions necessitated by the limitation, please hand write them onto the certificate. The following are the most commonly used limitations outside of the UK. These are also available in JAR-FCL 3:

- SIC** Special Instructions – AME to contact AMS
- VML** Shall wear multifocal lenses and carry a spare set of spectacles
- RXO** Requires specialist ophthalmological examinations

AME Online

Updating Applicant Contact Details

When you load a medical please ensure that the applicant’s details (address, telephone numbers, e-mail address) are up-to-date. Please also

update their employment and flying experience information. Although it is the applicant's responsibility to inform the CAA of any changes, the medical presents a good opportunity to check this has not been overlooked. We continue to experience the occasional problems with contacting applicants and this can lead to medical certificates being suspended.

QAS update

Last month we reported a problem with the new version of the QAS (Quick Address System) built into AME Online. This has now been resolved and you will now be able to enter longer or more complicated addresses correctly.

Printing from AME Online

Some AMEs are experiencing problems printing from AME Online. We are working closely with those who have contacted us in trying to find a resolution, but Harshini has asked that any AMEs who are experiencing difficulties printing from AME Online should get in touch with her:

harshini.fernando@caa.co.uk. We are trying to resolve an issue with printing when using Windows 7 and printing via Citrix. Google Chrome has also raised some issues.

Hard Tokens

Could we please remind you all to take care of your Safeword hard token. Try not to subject the display area or button to constant pressure as this can easily damage the device. Please keep them in a safe place other than wallets or purses, which might go in a back pocket and be crushed when you sit down.

Future IT Systems

As the current Aviation Medical IT systems, MARS and AME Online, were developed in the late 1990s we are now considering replacing them with more up-to-date technology. In a month or so we will be

sending out a questionnaire to all AMEs as part of an information gathering exercise. This information will be used when choosing or developing a suitable system and the information we receive from you will be a huge help in determining how we proceed.

AME Online downtime

Occasionally we experience network problems, which can cause issues with AME Online. Before calling the AME Online team please check your emails to see whether a notification has already been sent alerting you to the problem.

In order to reduce the amount of emails we need to send out to you on a regular basis, our IT Department have provided us with a schedule of planned maintenance. This document is now available in the Administration area of the web for your reference. A reminder will still be sent just prior to the downtime as before and the notice on the AME Online Welcome Page will also be updated.

We are currently looking at a method of reporting any "service" issues on our main website, so that you can readily check whether there any current issues with the AME Online system. Watch this space.

Web

Since the last newsletter (April 2010) the following pages have been added/updated on our website:

In May a Letter of intent – Revalidation of medical declaration prior to expiry was published to the web:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1350&pagetype=90&pageid=11381>

The Administration page details were updated in June to reflect Jane Miller's role as Dawn's temporary replacement:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=1859&pagetype=90&pageid=9551>

Also in June the Notification Index was updated with details of the AME Seminars, as mentioned previously:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7860>

In July the Renal Algorithms (ATCO and Pilot) were updated:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=556> for pilots and
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=9701> for ATCOs.

July saw the latest update to the Deviation policy:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7483> and accordingly the SpecCalc spreadsheet has been updated to v6.5:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=11007> (*this document is within the Administration area of the AME pages*).

Finally, certificate issued by the CAA in Lithuania are now mutually recognized by the UK CAA and the "What's New" area of the website and our "Schedule" have been updated accordingly:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=87> What's New and
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=11173> for the Schedule.

Remember if you sign up for  feeds you can keep up-to-date with all the important changes to our site, by receiving this information as it is published.

Other

EASA online

EASA's website is now up and running and has a useful area giving links to all the NAA

websites. This should prove useful should you need to find addresses for their AMCs:
<http://www.easa.europa.eu/links.php>

Highlighter Pens on Documents

As you will be aware, a large amount of the information received into the Medical Department is now scanned. Could we, therefore, please ask you not to use highlighter pens on documentation, as it obliterates the information when scanned.

Finally

If there is anything that you would like to see featured in the newsletter then please let us know so that we can endeavour to include it in future issues.

Links

Notification Index:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7860>

Forthcoming Events:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=9562>

Letter of intent – Revalidation of medical declaration prior to expiry:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1350&pagetype=90&pageid=11381>

Administration page (AME Area):
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=1859&pagetype=90&pageid=9551>

Renal Algorithms:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=556> for pilots and
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=9701> for ATCOs.

Deviation policy:
<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=7483>

SpecCalc spreadsheet (v6.5):

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=11007>

What's New:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=49&pagetype=87>

Schedule:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=49&pagetype=90&pageid=11173>

NAA websites on EASA site:

<http://www.easa.europa.eu/links.php>

 feeds:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=14&pagetype=65&appid=33>

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ORGANISATION CHART

(August 2010)

