



## Light aircraft pilot's licence (LAPL) Medical certificate

### A quick guide for GPs

#### **The General Practitioner must**

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- hold a valid licence to practise medicine from the General Medical Council
- be on the UK General Medical Council's GP register
- have access to, and be able to consult, the medical records of the applicant
- not perform an assessment on, or issue a LAPL medical certificate to, applicants with a medical diagnosis that requires further evaluation for certificate issue (see below)
- notify the UK CAA of all LAPL medical certificates issued
- when revalidating/renewing certificates, review the last LAPL medical certificate held
- have an NHS or doctors.org e mail address

## Initial Assessment

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If you are approached by a patient registered with your practice to issue a LAPL medical certificate, you should check their medical history before agreeing to proceed. If you find a record of any of the following (or similar) then you must advise the patient that they require a medical examination by an AeroMedical Examiner (AME).

**Please note:** if the applicant has previously held a CAA medical certificate and informs you that they have been made 'unfit' at any time, you must refer the applicant to an AME.

- Decreased visual acuity in either eye below 6/9 despite any correction
- Visual field defect
- Need for hearing aid(s)
- Angina/coronary artery disease
- Cardiac arrhythmia, including AF
- Cardiac valve replacement
- Recurrent fainting
- Implanted cardiac device
- Heart failure
- Chronic lung disease
- Pneumothorax
- Organ transplant
- Cerebral disorder
- Epilepsy
- Sedative medication

- Antidepressant medication
- Psychotic disorder
- Alcohol/substance misuse
- Personality disorder
- Learning difficulties
- Malignant disease
- Diabetes requiring medication
- Endocrine disorder
- Sleep disorder
- Major surgery

The applicant may then request that you provide copies of relevant medical reports/information for assessment by an AME or at an Aeromedical Centre (AeMC). For more detailed information see [www.caa.co.uk/medical](http://www.caa.co.uk/medical)

### If you are able to proceed with the application:

1. Go through the completed form with the applicant.
2. either
  - a) If this is a first application for a LAPL certificate or if over 50 a general examination is required, to include:
    - Pulse
    - BP
    - Urinalysis
    - Visual acuity/fields
    - Conversational hearing ability
    - Colour vision (only if applicant is applying for a night rating)

or,

b) If this is a revalidation, renewal or if under 50, an examination is not required unless clinically indicated.

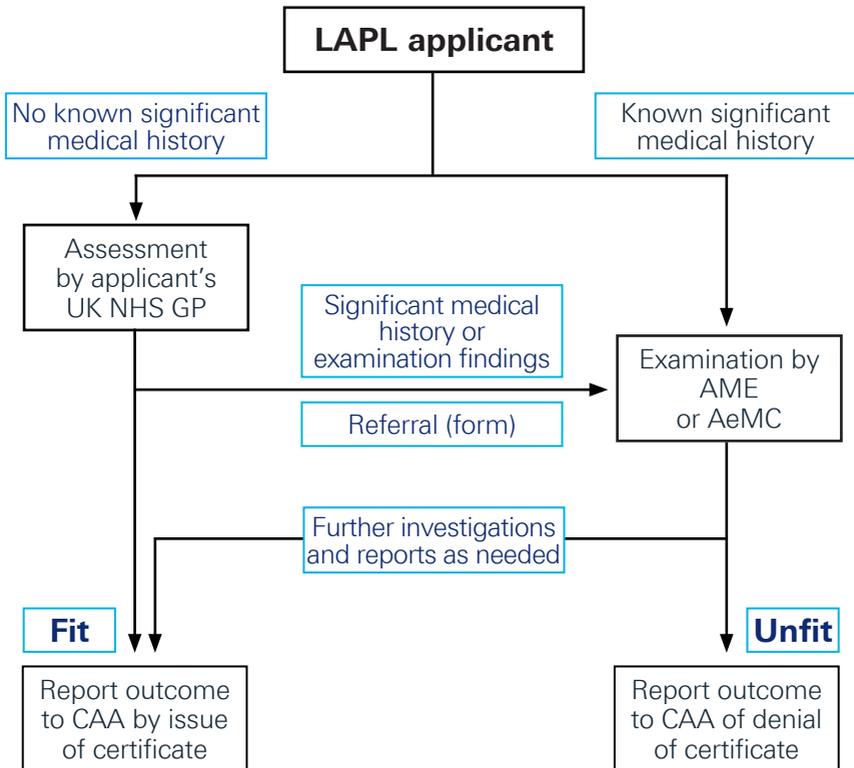
3. Complete the assessment/ examination form  
[www.caa.co.uk/medical](http://www.caa.co.uk/medical)

If the findings of your assessment meet the requirements stated in the 'Guidance for UK GPs on LAPL Medical Assessments' then you may issue a LAPL medical certificate.

If your assessment reveals a finding that requires referral, inform the applicant they must seek an examination with an AME or AeMC.

Please complete the referral form and provide copies of any relevant reports for the applicant to take to an AME [www.caa.co.uk/medical](http://www.caa.co.uk/medical)

In this circumstance you are not required to notify the UK CAA of this assessment but must make a entry in the NHS records reflecting your decision and actions.



## Certificate Issue

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On assessing an applicant as fit for a LAPL medical certificate you require access to the UK CAA website to issue the certificate:

[www.caa.co.uk/medical](http://www.caa.co.uk/medical)

1. Open the form
2. Enter your details
3. Enter the applicant's details
4. Enter the date of assessment
5. Confirm assessment outcome as 'fit'. A template with the certificate will then be produced
6. Print on plain paper, sign and give to the applicant to sign

## Revalidation/Renewal Assessments

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A LAPL certificate holder is required to revalidate periodically (up to 45 days before expiry date):

**Under 40:** Every 5 years (or until 42nd birthday if earlier)

**Over 40:** Every 2 years

For pilots with complex medical conditions that require assessment by an AME in the first instance, subsequent revalidation/renewal assessments can be carried out by a GP provided there is no change to the medical condition.

## Limitations

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A GP may only add or remove a limitation to a medical certificate if their patient requires/or no longer requires, spectacles or corrective lenses.

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### For pilots requiring lenses for distance vision the text is:

VDL: Wear corrective lenses and carry a spare set of spectacles

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### For pilots requiring lenses for near vision the text is:

VNL: Have available corrective spectacles and carry a spare set of spectacles

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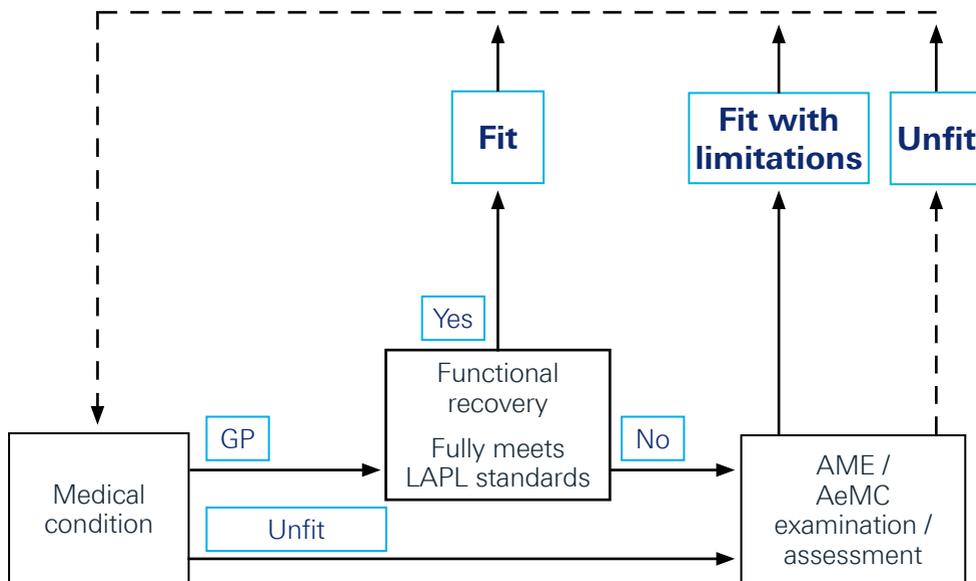
In cases where a limitation has been added by an AME, the GP can maintain this limitation on subsequent medical certificates provided the medical condition has not changed and has remained stable since the date of issue of the last certificate.

## Change in Health Status

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If you have issued a LAPL medical certificate to an individual and they subsequently attend your surgery with a new medical condition or requesting fitness advice following

## Change of condition and/or treatment



change in fit status, you should assess whether they are fit to fly.

If in doubt, advise the individual that they are unfit and must have an assessment by an AME before returning to flying.

## Record Keeping

The records of LAPL assessments must be kept for a period of 10 years after the expiry of the certificate. To achieve this the GP must keep the following with the individual's NHS

record in paper or electronic form until the person is deceased and it is destroyed under NHS record keeping requirements:

- the signed and completed LAPL medical application form
- a copy of the completed assessment/examination form
- a copy of the medical certificate issued

## Further Information

[www.caa.co.uk/medical](http://www.caa.co.uk/medical)