



U.S. Coast Guard Briefing to DACOWITS RFI 1.3 June 2024

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Average Length of Time to Process Each Medical Waiver

Medical waivers are typically received and logged into the system within 1-3 days. If the medical waiver is complete and ready for the Senior Medical Officer (SMO) review, it is added to the medical review inbox immediately. If the waiver requires additional information, it is held until the required information is received before being sent to the SMO for adjudication.



Average Length of Time to Obtain a Medical Recommendation from the Waiver Authority

The average length of time for a medical recommendation largely depends on the complexity of the condition and the number of medical conditions under review. In most cases, single common medical conditions can move from processing to recommendation within days. Packages containing complex conditions that require engagement with specialists or contain multiple disqualifying medical conditions may take 30 days or more to complete the review and make a recommendation.



What is the average length of time for the recruiting command to decide whether to approve the waiver based on the recommendation from the waiver authority or medical staff at recruiting command?

Once the SMO has made a medical recommendation regarding a waiver, the average approval time from the waiver authority is 48 hours.



What is the current backlog of medical waivers for applicants?

The backlog at any point in time could vary largely for a number of reasons. One of the biggest factors for the USCG is the number of officer panel applicants that are being reviewed simultaneous to the enlisted medical waiver requests. Complex medical conditions with multiple International Classification of Diseases (ICD) Codes currently have a 30-45 day backlog where simple medical conditions have an average current backlog of seven days.



Female-specific Disqualifying Conditions the Coast Guard Currently Providing Waivers For

These conditions can all be waived if there's evidence of criteria being met.

- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome can be waived with evidence of no metabolic complications. For instance, if screenings determine a BMI less than 30, normal blood pressure measurement, a normal lipid panel and normal hemoglobin screening, then a waiver can be processed.
- Pregnancy can be waived if 90 days post-partum for full-term delivery with obstetrician clearance. If termination occurs in the first trimester (miscarriage or medical abortion), then a waiver can be completed within 30 days. For a miscarriage, the waiver requires a negative Beta HCG test and proof of Rhogam delivery if the blood type is negative.



Female-specific Disqualifying Conditions the Coast Guard Currently Providing Waivers For (cont'd)

- Abnormal uterine bleeding can be waived if hemoglobin is normal. Additionally, we may inquire if there is any excessive time away from work/school and/or emergency room visits in the last six months for the condition.
- Abnormal Pap smear can be waived. Current screening guidelines now recommend Pap smears every three years in low-risk individuals. Applicants with a history of an abnormal Pap smear will need to provide follow-on documentation of evaluation (colposcopy vs. repeat Pap testing) and documents indicating resumption of normal (three-year) screening from their primary care physician.



Female-specific Disqualifying Conditions the Coast Guard Currently Providing Waivers For (cont'd)

- Endometriosis can be waived if treatment showed resolution of symptoms. The SMO would need to see the clinical notes to determine the severity of the condition. The SMO would review the presenting symptoms, length of condition, and prior treatment modalities (ablation, hysterectomy).
 - If the recruit were in the beginning stages of the process and initially being worked up for the condition, a waiver is less likely to be granted. However, if they were successfully treated and symptom free for the last 60-90 days, a waiver is likely to be granted.