

BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

DAF RESPONSE DACOWITS SEPTEMBER 2024 RFI #1

PURPOSE

To provide DACOWITS a written response to the September 2024 RFIs.

BACKGROUND

- DACOWITS requested responses to five questions related to medical waiver review, process, and authorities.
- Question 1: For applicants awaiting waiver(s), what is the loss rate during this wait period, and what is the threshold/timeframe where losses are the most prevalent (30 days, 60 days, 90 days, etc.)? Is this different for men and women? If so, how?
 - The DAF is unable to provide all requested information due to inability to continue communication with applicants if they have stopped answering inquiries from recruiters.
 - However, available data shows that roughly 25% of all applicants processing through MEPS never sought a waiver for FY24 to date.
 - Of those that submitted a waiver, many closed status applicants in Air Force Recruiting Information Support System (AFRISS) are marked as such within the first 30 days (39% M, 45% F), followed by 60 days (27% M, 26% F), followed by 90 days (15% M, 14% F) for FY 24 to date.
 - The number of women marked in closed status in the first 30 days is marginally greater than men when compared to the number of overall men and women who submit medical waiver requests.
 - However, this data is very subjective because applicants can be placed in closed status for various reasons to include; when the applicant stops communicating with the recruiter, when additional documentation required for processing is taking longer than expected etc.
 - AFRISS is unable to track exactly when an applicant stops processing since there is no set data point for that. Recruiters must assume applicants stopped processing when communication stops, place the applicant in closed status, and then open the applicant's record back up in AFRISS when communication resumes.
- Question 2: What is the average length of time to obtain a medical recommendation from the branch's waiver authority for the following female specific disqualifying medical conditions?

- The DAF cannot provide specific processing time information as it is calculated on applicants and not by diagnosis. When members have a waiver determination with multiple diagnoses, we are unable to clarify the length of time needed to process one diagnosis vs. another within the same applicant.
- Question 3: If specialty consult is required, what is the average wait time to see a specialist for each of these female specific disqualifying conditions noted above? Additionally, provide the percentage of applicants waiting: 1) less than 30 days; 2) 31- 60 days; 3) 61-90 days; and 4) greater than 90 days, for each of the female specific disqualifying medical conditions noted above.
 - According to United States Military Entrance Processing Command (USMEPCOM) Surgeon, in FY23, there were five (5) GYN consults requested by all SMWRAs. Data for time to wait was not provided and would be too small a number (because of so few consults requested) to provide information for a useful conclusion.
- Question 4: For those applicants requiring specialty consults, what percent of applicants sought care outside of the referred MEPS provider? Can applicants who sought their own consultation be reimbursed?
 - There is no data tracking how many applicants brought medical information from their own specialty providers to a MEPS medical evaluation.
 - Applicants who sought their own consultation outside of MEPS consultation process (regardless of condition or specialty) are not financially reimbursed.
- Question 5: Please provide a table for FY22, and FY23 with the following information about the top five female specific disqualifying conditions your Service is currently providing waivers for:
 - Appendix A (attached) reflects the top five female specific disqualifying conditions that the DAF has provided waivers for.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None, for informational purposes only.

Appendix A:

FY22 + FY23 Conditions	Waivers Granted	Waivers Requested	Waiver rate %	Avg Processing Time
Pregnancy	39	47	83%	<p>Unable to provide this information. Processing time information is calculated on applicants, not diagnoses. When members have a waiver determination with multiple diagnoses, unable to clarify the length of time needed to process one diagnosis vs. another within the same applicant.</p>
Abnormal Uterine/Vaginal Bleeding	168	220	76%	
Abnormal Pap Smear/test	5	8	63%	
Endometriosis	15	70	9%	
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome	25	34	74%	
Total	252	379	66%	