



U.S. AIR FORCE

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of the Air Force



U.S. SPACE FORCE

Air Force Recruiting Service



June 2024

INSPIRE



ENGAGE



RECRUIT



1.3 – Military Services’ Medical Waiver Review Authorities (SMWRAs)



1. What is the average length of time to process each medical waiver?

- a) Overall Air Force Recruiting Service (AFRS) medical waiver processing time (on average):
 - a) 135 days in FY22 prior to MHS Genesis; 126.4 days for the rest of FY22 after MHS Genesis
 - b) 103.5 days in FY23
 - c) 100 days in FY24, but 91 days for the month of March 2024.
 - Overall AFRS medical waiver processing time is calculated from the time a recruiter sends a waiver over to AMWD and includes all the time that a waiver might be with the recruiter/MEPS to obtain more information.
- a) Accession Medical Waiver Division (AMWD) processing time (on average):
 - a) 12 days in FY22 prior to MHS Genesis; 24 days for the rest of FY22 after MHS Genesis
 - b) 12 days in FY23 on average
 - c) 10 days in FY24 on average thus far, but 6 days for the month of March 2024.
 - Processing time data is calculated for AMWD looking only the time is sitting in the AMWD "box" in AFRISS (recruiting processing IT system).
 - The clock starts when recruiter sends waiver case to AMWD in AFRISS.
 - If the case can be adjudicated (waiver or DQ provided) without additional information, then the clock stops there. If a case is sent back to the recruiter/MEPS to obtain more information, the clock stops while the case is out of the AMWD workflow and restarts when it comes back to AMWD.

2. What is the average length of time to obtain a medical recommendation from the branch’s waiver authority?

- a) Answer as above.

3. What is the average length of time for the recruiting command to make a decision whether to approve the waiver based on the recommendation from the branch’s waiver authority or medical staff at the recruiting command?

- a) Answer as above. The AMWD is delegated as the final waiver authority for accession medical waivers (SecAF → AF/SG → AMWD).





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4. What is the current backlog in each of the Military Services medical waivers for applicants?

- a) As of 13 May 2024: the 5 (business) day average for waivers requiring attention is 448.
- b) The average number of days to first work on a case in the queue as it comes in is 4 days.

5. Which of these top female-specific disqualifying conditions is your Service currently providing waivers for? (Please provide criteria for these waivers: pregnancy; abnormal uterine or vaginal bleeding; abnormal pap smear/test; endometriosis; and polycystic ovarian syndrome. See next slide.)

	FY22 + FY23	Waiver granted / waiver requested = waiver rate %		
a) Pregnancy		39 /	47	= 83%
b) Abnormal uterine/vaginal bleeding		168 /	220	= 76%
c) Abnormal pap smear/test		5 /	8	= 63%
d) Endometriosis		15 /	70	= 9%
e) <u>Polycystic ovarian syndrome</u>		25 /	34	= 74%
f) Total		252/	379	= 66%





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5. Please provide criteria for these waivers: pregnancy; abnormal uterine or vaginal bleeding; abnormal pap smear/test; endometriosis; and polycystic ovarian syndrome.

- a) Pregnancy
 - a) No waiver provided for members currently pregnant.
 - b) For members who are within 6 months post-pregnancy state, waivers can be provided for those whose pregnancy lab values are declining and there are no adverse pregnancy sequelae (e.g. anemia, post partum depression, etc.)
- b) Abnormal uterine/vaginal bleeding
 - a) Waivers can be provided for: 1) symptoms can be controlled with minimal treatment (e.g. birth control pill/intrauterine device) that does not require specialty care; 2) demonstration of period of time without interference with work or school; 3) no signs of anemia.
- c) Abnormal pap smear/test
 - a) Waivers are regularly provided for this condition as long as the applicant does not have signs of pre-cancerous or cancerous state that requires imminent treatment.
- d) Endometriosis
 - a) Waivers are provided for those with presumptive diagnoses in a clinical setting where symptoms are controlled with birth control pill/intrauterine device.
 - b) Waivers are not provided for those with biopsy proven endometriosis (endometrial tissue outside of the uterus), regardless of treatment, as symptoms are very likely to recur.
- e) Polycystic ovarian syndrome
 - a) Waivers are provided for those with minimal symptoms that can be controlled with minimal treatment by a primary care provider, or specialist no more than once annually, and demonstrated laboratory stability (at least 6-12 months).
 - b) Waivers are not provided for those without demonstrated symptomatic and laboratory stability, or those requiring specialty care more than once annually.

