



In 2018, Canadian Aviation Pride's Chair posed a number of questions to Transport Canada's Director of Civil Aviation Medicine, Dr. D.A. Salisbury to provide you with answers to important questions of interest to our community.

We hope that this will allow those seeking a medical certificate to feel comfortable in disclosing important information to their Civil Aviation Medical Examiner (CAME).

HIV and licensing

How does HIV affect an aviation medical certificate?

"We do not do HIV testing as part of an aviation medical. HIV status itself is less of an issue than what is the state of health of the person seeking certification. When someone is ill and/or being actively treated with the most powerful drugs used in this area, we have generally restricted them from flying due to the secondary effects of those situations. When that period of time is over and they have recovered then they can generally return to the cockpit. We use the clinical indicators of illness to guide this process and that is why the web guideline is so technical. The CD4 count and the drug regime being used are indicators of illness and frankly side effects that are generally thought to be incompatible with safe flying." ■

How does PrEP (HIV pre-exposure prophylactic medication) affect my civil aviation medical?

"Transport Canada Civil Aviation Medicine has taken a very positive approach to HIV and AIDS and has confidence that our medical report requirements are fair and in the best interests of flight safety. These reports allow us to consider all medical issues for decision making in order to provide an acceptable margin of safety for the aviator and the flying public.

As for PrEP, there are aeromedical concerns about the side effects of the medication in the early stages of use. Persons holding aviation licensing/medical document should be cautioned not to fly for two-three weeks after starting regular use of the medication.

Pilots who experience prolonged side effects should consult with their aviation medical examiner or contact their Regional Aviation Medical Officer to discuss their unique circumstances. If no serious side effects are experienced then use of PrEP is compatible with holding a medical certificate.

The use of PrEP medications shall be disclosed on the Medical Examination Report(MER) with the Civil Aviation Medical Examiner (CAME).

Pilot's being treated for HIV positivity or AIDS are also required to disclose this to Transport Canada Civil Aviation Medicine and will be required to submit regular (annual) reports concerning their status, treatment, side effects, viral load, CD4 count and undergo cardiovascular testing at intervals.

As with all medical reports these will only be used to determine eligibility for a medical certificate and the information on the Medical Examination Report will only be seen by medical personnel." ■