



Update ME

A brief update from the
Civil Aviation Authority
Central Medical Unit



13 December 2010

Welcome to another issue of our *Update ME* newsletter.

The year that's been

2010 has again been a busy year at CAA, with many organization-wide improvement initiatives being implemented.

The CMU activities have continued to be limited by reduced staffing capabilities. In particular there are still only two medical officers, Dr Dougal Watson as PMO and Dr Claude Preitner as SMO. Central Medical Unit projects have been put on hold, while CAA actively undertakes a recruitment effort.

We are moving

Santa will come to town on 24 December, and CAA will follow soon after on 22 January 2011, leaving Petone for a more *downtown* location in Wellington.

The new street address for the CAA will be:
55 Featherston St, Wellington.

The new building is just opposite the main Wellington railway station and appears prominently on the live images of Wellington displayed on some TV channels during the weather forecast. You should find it easier to come and visit us if you are ever in the capital city and you will be welcome.

Contrary to previous advice the postal address is changing to:
P.O. Box 3555, Wellington 6140

CAA medical records

The move to Featherston Street has placed different requirements for the handling of medical files. A large proportion of them will now be stored off site. We are scanning all recent assessments to allow for electronic access. There will be a transition period during which access to the necessary information may be slightly delayed at times. We will endeavour to reply to your requests as soon as possible. We ask for your patience, if we are unable to respond as quickly as we have always done.

End of year arrangements

The CAA offices will be closed:

24 December 2010 - 5 January 2011

Please keep this in mind when scheduling your assessments and requests to the CMU.

Cost of lab testing

We have recently been reminded by one of the laboratories that tests performed for the purpose of obtaining a medical certificate are not covered by public funding. It is good practice to indicate the purpose of the tests on the laboratory request form. Unless there is a specific medical indication to ask for a test, the wording "Pilot medical", or words to this effect, would be appropriate. Applicants should be informed of the need to pay for the tests.

Paperwork to applicant

We had a request from an ME asking that applicants should be given a copy of their MAR. Applicants must be able to present this document to the, possibly different, ME at the time of a new application. We believe that MARs are given to applicants in almost all cases. However, if this is not your practice, kindly ensure that you begin doing this.

CV risk estimation

Under the GD "Examination Procedures" the cardiovascular risk estimation is to be conducted using the NZ Guidelines Group document: "[The Assessment and Management Guidelines of Cardiovascular Risk](#)".

Medical Information Sheet (MIS)

[MIS 007 Cardiovascular Risk](#), has been updated, and is available on the CAA website.

Thank you

The certification system relies heavily on your work and your professional approach in order to maintain safe medical certification practices. We are grateful for your diligent work during the year and your communication with us.

From all of us, thank you and best wishes for the Christmas period and year 2011.

CAA Medical Help

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