

EVERYTHING MATTERS

The New Age of Aeromedical Aviation Medicine Advisory Service

Dr. Quay Snyder
ALPA Aeromedical Advisor

Overview

- ▶ History/Background of Key Personnel
- ▶ Scope of Services
- ▶ Interaction with AMAS
- ▶ ALPA Rep Self Care Issues
- ▶ FAA Hot Topics
- ▶ Q&A

History of Aeromedical Office

- ▶ Created 1969 - Dr. Richard Masters
Aviation Medicine Prevention Associates
- ▶ Purchased 1993 - Dr. Don Hudson
Aviation Medicine Advisory Service
- ▶ Merger 2010 - Dr. Quay Snyder
Virtual Flight Surgeons, Inc. - AMAS
now “Aviation Medicine Advisory Service”

MDs - Common Background

- ▶ Aerospace medicine residencies
- ▶ Extensive military flying experience
- ▶ Three of seven pilots (2 active)
- ▶ Diverse, complementary clinical training
- ▶ Full-time practice for all
- ▶ Not FAA Aviation Medical Examiners
 - *Confidential communications!!!*

Physician Staff

- ▶ Quay Snyder - ALPA Aeromedical Advisor
- ▶ Keith Martin
- ▶ Phil Parker
- ▶ Jon Riccitello
- ▶ Kurt McCartney
- ▶ Paula Corrigan
- ▶ Don Hudson - HIMS program manager & international liaison

Non-Clinical Staff

- ▶ COO - Catherine Cazorla
- ▶ Clinical Case managers -
 - ▶ Jay Clyde & Wendy Clausen
- ▶ FAA Liaison team (2)
- ▶ Telephone / records staff (5)
- ▶ Accounting and Admin Ass't

Aeromedical Office Functions

► Consultation

- Advice to Union leadership on issues universally relevant to membership, aeromedical committees and commercial aviation industry

► Clinical

- Services to individual members whose medical and/or pilot certificates may be in jeopardy
- Aerospace Medicine Information Resource

Consultation - Committees/Staff

- ▶ ALPA Pilot Assistance Group
 - Aeromedical
 - HIMS
 - Professional Standards
 - Critical Incident Response
 - Canadian Pilot Assistance
- ▶ Engineering and Air Safety
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Retirement & Insurance

ALPA Communications Staff

- ▶ *Air Line Pilot Magazine* - “Health Watch”
- ▶ ALPA TV - Fit for Flight
- ▶ Aeromedical Flyer
- ▶ Fast-Read
- ▶ Presentations - Lasers, Sleep Apnea, HIMS
- ▶ ALPA Conferences
 - Leadership, Air Safety Forum, HIMS

Consultation - ALPA Leadership

- ▶ National Officers
- ▶ IFALPA
Global issues
- ▶ MECs [Bankruptcy, Mergers, Legal Cases, Pubs]

FAA & Transport Canada Liaison

- ▶ Federal Air Surgeon / AMCD Director
- ▶ Policy Issues
 - Pilot Medical Certification Policy
 - Sleep and Psychoactive Medications
 - Pandemic Response / Oxygen Mask Rules
 - Radiation Exposure
 - Alcohol and Drug Testing / DUI and Alcohol Treatment
 - Age 65 / ICAO Medical Standards
 - Laser Incidents
- ▶ Certificate actions-failure to report, falsified 8500-8
- ▶ Many others

Consultation - Education

- ▶ Articles in *Air Line Pilot* magazine
- ▶ Review e-newsletters for committee
- ▶ Pilot and Medical Seminars
- ▶ www.AviationMedicine.com
Free general info on meds & 50+ diseases
FAA forms and protocols, AME locator

Clinical Services

- ▶ CONFIDENTIAL → not anonymous!
- ▶ RISK-FREE → Not AMEs
- ▶ EXPERT → Full-time exclusive practice
- ▶ CURRENT → Daily interactions w/ FAA
- ▶ TIMELY → Same-day response

Clinical Services to Pilots

- ▶ Confidential Aeromedical Advice
- ▶ FAR Part 67 interpretations
- ▶ Specialist Referral Database
- ▶ Liaison with Airline Medical Departments
- ▶ Case Presentation, FAA reporting
 - Non-grounding, reportable
 - Grounding, waiverable
 - Special Issuance
 - Denial of Medical Certificate

Initial Pilot Contact

- ▶ Pilot calls, provides admin asst. basic ID info - if Union Rep identify yourself
- ▶ No anonymous calls - must be ALPA
- ▶ Short synopsis of question sent to MD
- ▶ No email contacts except HQ
- ▶ Call back prioritized
- ▶ 200 + pilot calls/day, 50 + liaison calls/day

Case Management

- ▶ Physician Response
- ▶ Usually within 1-4 hours
- ▶ VFS web site info given in interim
- ▶ Answers to ?s, suggestions for management/FAA implications/reporting
- ▶ Send letter with releases/FAA checklists
- ▶ Pilot responsible for collecting records

Records Review and Case Preparation

- ▶ Review incoming records
 - adequacy of evaluation and documentation
 - screen for undetected problem areas
 - office visit NOT necessary
 - refer to evaluating specialist if necessary
- ▶ Prepare complete records package for FAA
- ▶ Send via overnight carrier to FAA
- ▶ Copy pilot with aeromedical summary
- ▶ NEVER EDIT medical records - Credibility!!!

Follow-up / Disposition

- ▶ Track FAA cases - 150+ open
- ▶ “Expedited” turn-around
- ▶ Review / “Translate” FAA letters
- ▶ Discuss FAA reporting requirements on next FAA medical exam
- ▶ Discuss follow-up req’ts and answer ????

ALPA Canada Assistance

- ▶ Murray Munro - Chairman, ALPA Canada PA
 - Phone - (866) 423-1875, 403-616-3181
 - murray.munro@alpa.org
- ▶ David Noble - Toronto
 - Phone 416-679-8210 x321, 800-561-9576 x321
 - david.noble@alpa.org
- ▶ Tom O'Toole - Vice Chair, ALPA Canada PA
 - 403-389-3032, 1-866-341-4594
 - Tom.OToole@alpa.org

Medical Assistance Canada

- ▶ Dr. Gary Gray
- ▶ Dr. Trevor Gilmore
- ▶ Dr. Brenden Adams
- ▶ Dr. Gennieve Campbell
- ▶ Dr. Navid Ali
- ▶ Rev. Brian Murray

Privacy

- ▶ Strictly Confidential - Not Anonymous
- ▶ Firewall - privacy of information
- ▶ Daily Backup
- ▶ Computer case file of notes retained
- ▶ Scanned FAA Correspondence
- ▶ Signed written releases REQUIRED
- ▶ Paper copies of records archived - shred

AMAS ALPA Aeromedical Caseload

▶ 1988	-	829	▶ 2000	-	6,900
▶ 1990	-	1,071	▶ 2002	-	7,100
▶ 1992	-	1,113	▶ 2004	-	7,300
▶ 1994	-	3,000	▶ 2006	-	8,300
▶ 1996	-	3,611	▶ 2008	-	6,800
▶ 1998	-	4,900	▶ 2010	-	6,900
			▶ 2011	-	8,629*

Disease Incidence Data

- ▶ Cardiovascular - 32%
 - ▶ Orthopedic - 20%
 - ▶ Psychiatric - ENT - 14% @
 - ▶ GI & GU - 12% @
 - ▶ Systemic - 10% (sleep apnea)
 - ▶ Neuro, Endo, Eye - 5-9% @
 - ▶ Drug test, DUI, Falsification - 250 ↑ 50%
- * > 100% - multiple diagnoses

LEC/MEC Self-Care

- ▶ Goal - minimize chronic fatigue and “savior syndrome”
- ▶ 6-1 rule -
 - {6hrs-1hr-6hrs for a given day}
 - {6 days “on” 1day “off”}
 - {6 weeks “on” one week “off”}
- ▶ No ‘drinking and brainstorming’ sessions
- ▶ Realize limitations - you are not a machine
- ▶ If you see something that scares you - call

REP Referrals

- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Family Issues - therapy? FAA reporting?
- ▶ Medications - Can I take this and fly?
- ▶ Alcohol - DUIs, +tests, layover incidents
- ▶ Fatigue - “pilot pushing”
- ▶ “Sandbox” issues - difficulty playing with others, “anger management” therapy?
- ▶ Sick Leave - “pilot reliability” programs, “Mother May I notes,” S/L “abuse”

FAA Hot Topics - DUI's

- ▶ Mandatory AME Deferral
 - Second alcohol related event → EVER!
 - Refusal to provide breath/blood sample
 - BAC value > 0.1499
- ▶ Extensive documentation & evaluation
- ▶ Delay in medical certification - CALL EARLY

FAA Hot Topics - Falsification

▶ Question 18

“Do you have or have you EVER had...?”

- Medical disability benefits - 18y
- ARRESTS for drug/alcohol related motor vehicle actions
- Suspension, revocation or educational req't

▶ Visits to healthcare providers in last 3 years

▶ Signing form authorizes FAA access

▶ REVOCATION of ALL certificates

FAA Hot Topics - On the Horizon

- ▶ Antidepressant medications
 - Prozac, Zoloft, Celexa, Lunesta
 - ▶ since April 2010 - ~30 certified first class
- ▶ Sleep apnea screening
 - Pushed by NTSB, common condition
- ▶ Extended Alcohol/Drug SIA periods
 - Broad definition of abuse → requires treatment
- ▶ Online Medical Application MedXPress

Survival Tips

- ▶ CALL EARLY
Easier to resolve before hole is too deep
- ▶ When in Doubt, ASK
Rumors & Guesses Kill -- Experts Save
- ▶ Trust Your Gut
You know when something is not right
- ▶ Use your ALPA Resources

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