



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** POM 821.72  
23 June 2020

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**By Order of the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service:**

**VADM Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH**

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**TO:** All Candidates Seeking an Appointment in the Regular Corps or the Ready Reserve Corps

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of a Disqualifying Medical or Dental Condition

1. This Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) establishes the process for approving a waiver of a medical or dental condition that will disqualify a candidate for an appointment into the Corps in accordance with Commissioned Corps Instruction (CCI) [221.01](#), "Medical Accession Standards."
2. Based on medical judgment and guidance in accordance with CCI 221.01, clinical reviewers who are appointed by the Director, Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ), or his/her designee, (hereinafter referred to as "disqualifying official") may recommend the consideration of a waiver of a disqualifying condition(s). If a waiver is recommended, the disqualifying official should include any recommendations for additional documentation and forward the medical record to the Chief, Medical Affairs Branch (MAB), CCHQ.
3. The Chief, MAB, or his/her designate will:
  - a. Request additional information/documentation from the candidate that the Chief, MAB, deems is warranted.
  - b. Review the candidate's disqualifying condition(s) to determine if a waiver is appropriate and to ensure that each condition:
    - (1) Will not normally be subject to significant change or progressive deterioration;
    - (2) Will not prevent a candidate from deploying worldwide in response to urgent and emergency public health care needs, and/or any required military mission;
    - (3) Will not prevent the candidate from assuming any assignment in his/her profession in various environments and work assignments; and
    - (4) Will not adversely affect the candidate's fitness for duty should he/she be commissioned.

- c. Make a determination to:
  - (1) Uphold the initial medical disqualification of the candidate, which may not be appealed; or
  - (2) Forward the candidate's records to the Director, CCHQ, for a determination regarding whether the candidate possesses unique skills and/or experience that are of particular value to the Corps that warrants a waiver consideration.
4. The Director, CCHQ, will:
  - a. Determine that the candidate does not warrant a waiver consideration, which upholds the initial medical disqualification of the candidate and may not be appealed; or
  - b. Recommend to the SG to grant a waiver for the disqualifying condition(s).
5. The SG will review a recommendation from the Chief, MAB, to grant a waiver and the SG will:
  - a. Approve the waiver;
  - b. Deny the waiver, which may not be appealed; or
  - c. Request that CCHQ provide and/or obtain additional information.
6. A determination at any stage of the medical review process to medically disqualify a candidate for an appointment to the Corps may not be appealed, and a candidate may not request a waiver of a disqualifying Medical condition.
7. This POM replaces POM 821.72, "Waiver of a Disqualifying Medical or Dental Condition," dated 12 July 2019, and will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.

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Surgeon General