HEALTH SERVICES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

EXERCISE 51

SUBJECT: USING AERO FOR AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

REFERENCE(S):   COMDTINST M6410.3, Aviation Medical Manual, May 2003
                  US Army Aeromedical Technical Bulletin, 11 March 2008

PURPOSE: To describe the use of AERO in completing and submitting aviation medical examinations and waivers.

DISCUSSION: The Aeromedical Electronic Resource Office (AERO) is a web-based system to allow aviation medicine providers and clinics to process and track medical examinations. It was developed by the US Army Aeromedical Activity (USAAMA) and deployed in 2002 to decrease errors in submission, improve processing time, and allow for automated tracking of physicals. The Coast Guard has contracted with the USAAMA to use AERO for the processing of all aviation medical exams and waivers.

ACTION: Coast Guard Clinics shall implement the use of AERO for the submission of all Aviation and Dive Medical Examinations and Waivers as instructed in this QIIG. During the implementation phase of AERO, all medical examinations which have already been completed on paper (DD2807 and DD2808) will be processed as originally directed.

Effective immediately, the Coast Guard will begin creating user accounts in the AERO system. All Flight Surgeons (FS), Flight Surgeon Trainees (FST), Aeromedical Officers (AMO), Aeromedical Physician Assistants (APA), Corpsmen, and clerical staff who may assist with flight physical processing, retrieval or printing should request AERO access. Coast Guard users must request AERO access through the Coast Guard AERO Support Office using the forms and instructions outlined in Attachments 1-3.

AERO is designed and operated around Army definitions and standards, some of which differ from those historically used by the Coast Guard. After thorough review of these differences, the Coast Guard has determined that the differences were not clinically or operationally significant and have adopted the aviation medical exam standards used by AERO. In order to assist Coast Guard Clinics with using AERO and adjusting to these minor changes, the Coast Guard AERO Guide and Technical Bulletins have been created (see Attachments 4 & 5 respectively).

Attachment 4 defines the process for completion of annual aviation medical exams and Periodic Health Assessments (PHA), including documentation in AERO and the electronic health record.

AERO training can be accessed from the USAAMA website at https://aamaweb.usaama.rucker.amedd.army.mil/ by following the "AERO Demonstrations" link (see Attachment 6 for detailed instructions).

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ATTACHMENTS:
      (1) Account Request Checklist
      (2) Printing HIPAA Certificate
      (3) Registering for AKO/DKO Account
      (4) Coast Guard AERO Guide
      (5) Coast Guard AERO Technical Bulletins
      (6) Accessing AERO Training