

Flag Voice #511
PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Since March 2018, the Coast Guard has required Periodic Health Assessments (PHA) to be completed by Medical Officers (MOs). This has impacted the Coast Guard's ability to meet both access to care and medical readiness standards.

Today, the Coast Guard instituted a new policy that will permit qualified* Independent Duty Health Services Technicians (IDHS) to complete PHAs, and will also allow them to travel to our Reserve units and units that use TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) to do annual PHA Group Events. While Reserve Health Readiness Program will remain an option, scheduling a PHA Group Event with a Coast Guard IDHS may be an easier, more flexible, and more comprehensive option going forward.

The intent of these policy changes are to improve medical readiness, to give CG personnel more flexibility in how and when they obtain PHAs, and to free up CG MOs for more clinical appointments.

The birth month requirement for PHA compliance will remain in effect, with the exception of Reservists and/or TPR personnel whose units schedule PHA Group Events. In those cases, the month of the unit's PHA Group Event will become their new PHA due month in subsequent years.

Coast Guard Business Intelligence (CGBI) may not be able to reflect these changes until the second quarter of FY20, so unit leaders will have to keep a close eye on Individual Medical Readiness – more specifically, PHA completion. As changes are made to CGBI, it is important to note that there is no expectation for any member to get more than one PHA during a 12 month period.

ACN 129/19 announces these PHA Improvements. If you have any questions, please contact CAPT Shane Steiner at shane.c.steiner@uscg.mil.



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*qualified IDHSs are those who have completed required PHA training and who have a Designated Medical Officer Advisor (DMOA)