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Managing declared health conditions for certain temporary visa applicants

Some visa applicants are required to undergo an immigration medical examination (IME). The medical examinations visa applicants are required to undertake are generally auto-generated by HAP. These medical examinations are set out in the Health Matrix as well as the Sch 4/4005-4007 – The Health Requirement Procedural Instruction (Health Requirement PI).

However, there are circumstances in which medical examinations, in addition to those set out in the Health Matrix and the Health Requirement PI, may be necessary for some **temporary visa applicants**, where they answer 'yes' to certain health declaration questions in their visa application. These are set out in the table below.

Where a temporary visa applicant meets one of the conditions in the **table below** the visa processing officer **must** manually add **all** of the following examinations (unless they have already been auto-generated in HAP).

- **501** Medical Examination (form 26)
- **502** Chest x-ray examination (form 160), and
- **705** Serum creatinine/eGFR (form 26)

See the relevant Migration Health Processing guidelines on the [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) for guidance on editing the health examinations generated by HAP.

What if a visa applicant declares a 'medication'?

If the visa applicant declares medication (e.g. Warfarin or Panadol) instead of a condition, visa processing officers should contact the visa applicant and seek confirmation of the visa applicant's health condition, for which they are taking the medication.

This information may be used to determine if a health examination is required as per the table above.

What if the condition is not listed or the visa grant period is less than indicated in the table?

Where the condition is not listed or the intended visa grant period is less than the timeframe indicated in the table the visa applicant may not be required to complete any additional examinations not already required by the Health Matrix or the Health Requirement PI.

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Declared Health conditions where health examinations are required

PART A: Conditions which require health examinations regardless of intended period of stay	Action Required
• Active TB (current or past), including where the applicant has had previous close household contact with a person with active TB at any time in the previous 5 years. • Renal failure, including dialysis. • Renal or kidney disease or renal cancer (but not kidney stones) • Organ transplant, including those visa applicants in need of an organ or who have been an organ transplant recipient. • Blood disorders, including sickle cell anaemia, beta thalassemia, aplastic anemia and haemophilia. Respiratory disease that has required hospital admission in the last 12 months, or which required oxygen therapy, including cystic fibrosis, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis and pneumothorax (Does not include sleep apnea, that requires continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy).	• 501 Medical Examination (form 26); and • 502 Chest x-ray examination (form 160) and • 705 Serum creatinine/eGFR (form 26)
PART B: <u>Two or more</u> conditions which require health examinations regardless of intended period of stay	
Declaration of any two or more health conditions. Multiple health conditions of any type can complicate treatment and this may lead to resulting in a significant cost to the Australian community.	
PART C: Conditions which require health examinations for an <u>intended stay of 6 months or more</u>	
• Cancer in the previous 5 years • Liver disease, including decompensated chronic liver disease • Dementia or cognitive impairment • Hospitalisation in the last 12 months for any condition (other than giving birth.) • Conditions that require on-going medication and if ceased would be detrimental to their life, including multiple sclerosis or crohn disease • Disability including chromosomal abnormalities, neurological, intellectual or physical where the applicant is under 18 years of age • Psychiatric illness including Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder. (But not mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety.)	To be added manually by visa processing officers in HAP – Health Declarations, if not auto-generated

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Where the department holds adverse health information

Additional examinations may also be required if the Department holds adverse health information about the visa applicant, including but not limited to, the following circumstances:

- Previous Does Not Meet opinion for a condition listed in either **PART A or C**. In these cases visa processing officers should manually generate the required health examinations as per the above.
- Possible deception is identified in relation to the applicant's previous immigration medical examinations.
- Applicant's health has significantly deteriorated prior to grant of a subsequent visa application.
- Other reasons where a visa processing officer has reasons to believe that additional examinations may be warranted i.e. pregnancy declaration – refer to pregnant visa applicants section in the Health Requirement PI for further guidance.

Major Event considerations

There may be special guidance in place to facilitate the genuine entry of visa applicants that are travelling to Australia for a short period of time to specifically participate in time limited Government endorsed events, high profile events or other large scale major world/regional events. An example of this would be Competitors for the Invictus Games or other internationally recognised sporting events for disabled athletes.

Given the specific nature of such major or high profile events, without an adjustment to the consideration of declared health conditions, some participants may be unnecessarily required to undergo Immigration Medical Examinations, which may lead to visa processing delays.

Visa processing officers can refer these cases via International Events Coordination Network s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au) for their endorsement to Health s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au).

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