



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUL 11 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Medical Conditions Disqualifying for Accession into the Military

- References: (a) Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Review of Medical Conditions Disqualifying for Accession into the Military," April 24, 2025
(b) Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03, Volume 1, "Medical Standards for Military Service: Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction," May 6, 2018, as amended
(c) Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Memorandum, "Clarifying Guidance on Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness: Retention and Accession Waivers," March 4, 2025

America's warfighters must be physically and mentally capable of performing their duties in the harshest of conditions. Severe underlying medical conditions introduce significant risks on the battlefield and threaten not only mission priorities, but also the health and safety of the affected individual and their fellow Service members. Therefore, medical conditions listed in Attachment 1 require a medical accession waiver from the Secretary of a Military Department. Conditions listed in Attachment 2 are ineligible for a medical accession waiver.

Additionally, I direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) and the Secretaries of the Military Departments to immediately update applicable regulations, including reference (b), to incorporate this direction. I further direct the USD(P&R), in coordination with other relevant officials, to routinely evaluate the relevant categories and issue updated guidance as appropriate.

The Department's policy on gender dysphoria remains unchanged: applicants for Military Service having a current diagnosis or history of or exhibiting symptoms consistent with gender dysphoria would require an accession waiver from the Secretary of a Military Department in accordance with reference (c).

Our high standards are a cornerstone of lethality, and the Department must remain vigilant in preserving those standards.

Attachments:
As stated



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Attachment 1: Disqualifying Conditions for Which Only a Secretary of a Military Department May Approve a Waiver

Condition
History of corneal transplant
Absence of an eye/lack of vision in one or both eyes
The presence of an implantable pacemaker or defibrillator
History of myocardial infarction
Current ostomy (gastrointestinal or urinary)
History of chronic hepatic failure
History of chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis
Absence of hand or any bony portion thereof (with the exception of digits)
Absence of a foot
History of scleroderma
History of neurodegenerative disorders, including, but not limited to, those disorders affecting the cerebrum, basal ganglia, cerebellum, spinal cord, or muscles
Current central nervous system shunts of all kinds including endoscopic third ventriculocisternostomy
History of disorders with psychotic features such as schizophrenic disorders, delusional disorders, or other unspecified psychoses or mood disorders with psychotic features (If not medication/substance induced)

Attachment 2: Disqualifying Conditions Ineligible for Medical Accession Waiver

Condition
History of cystic fibrosis
Current chronic supplemental oxygen use
Current congestive heart failure.
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
Multiple sclerosis
Current epilepsy
Current treatment for schizophrenia
Homicidality within the previous 12 months
Any suicidal attempt within the previous 12 months.
History of paraphilic disorders
History of receiving solid organ transplant
Trisomy 21
Osteogenesis Imperfecta