

Change 168
Manual of the Medical Department
U.S. Navy
NAVMED P-117

3 February 2023

To: Holders of the Manual of the Medical Department

1. This Change: Updates MANMED Chapter 15, article 15-105(4)(n)(9).

a. Changes noted: The requirement of a waiver for candidates or Naval Special Warfare and Special operations Duty (NSW/SOD) designated personnel failing to receive required vaccines.

b. Changes noted for MANMED article 15-105((4)(n)(9)). Replaced “Candidate or SO designated personnel refusing to receive recommended vaccines (preventive health or theater specific vaccines recommended by the Combatant Command (CCMD)) based solely on personal or religious beliefs are disqualified. This provision does not pertain to medical contraindications or allergies to vaccine administration.” with “Candidates or Naval Special Warfare and Special operations Duty (NSW/SOD) designated personnel failing to receive required vaccines (preventive health or theater-specific vaccines required by the Combatant Command (CCMD)), whether for personal or religious beliefs, medical contraindications or allergies to vaccine administration, or any other reason, are disqualified and must seek a waiver.”

2. Action. Add updated vaccine waiver requirements verbiage to MANMED Chapter 15 article 15-105(4)(n)(9).



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pose a significant risk of mentally or physically impairing side effects is disqualifying. Any requirement for a medication that necessitates close monitoring, regular tests, refrigeration, or parenteral administration on a biweekly (every 2 weeks) or more frequent basis is disqualifying. Requirement for medication which would pose a significant health risk if suddenly stopped for 1 month or more is disqualifying.

(c) SO designated personnel taking medicines prescribed by a non-DoD provider are disqualified until reviewed and approved by the Service member's UMO.

(9) **Vaccinations.** Candidates or Naval Special Warfare and Special operations Duty (NSW/SOD) designated personnel failing to receive required vaccines (preventive health or theater-specific vaccines required by the Combatant Command (CCMD)), whether for personal or religious beliefs, medical contraindications or allergies to vaccine administration, or any other reason, are disqualified and must seek a waiver.

(4) **Waiver and Disqualification Requests.** Waiver and disqualification requests are essentially the same personnel action. The distinction between the two lies with whether the originator is requesting that one or more physical standards be waived or not. The outcome of either request is a determination by the responsible waiver authority as to whether the physical standard(s) is waived or not. BUMED-M95 serves as the senior medical reviewer for the waiver authority. (Certain waiver authorities have delegated adjudication of disqualification cases only to lower echelon commanders).

(a) Requests for a waiver of physical standards for SO personnel and candidates must be sent from the member's commander, commanding officer, or officer in charge, via any applicable immediate superior in command (ISIC) or type commander (TY-COM) and BUMED-M95, to the appropriate Bureau of Naval Personnel code (enlisted – BUPERS-3; officers – PERS-416); or Headquarters, USMC (POG-40).

(b) Originators must use the WEBWAVE 2 system to securely transmit cases (which contain HIPAA and PII-protected information). WEBWAVE 2 expedites case adjudication, allows tracking of cases under review and provides an accessible archive of closed cases. The system's business rules are designed to ensure that all necessary components of a request are submitted and requests are directed electronically via the proper routing sequence. BUMED-M95's guideline for timely internal review of routine waiver requests is 10 business days; Urgent cases are acted

upon with 24 hours of receipt. Access to WEBWAVE 2 is controlled by BUMED-M95. Commands needing to submit requests via WEBWAVE 2 but currently without access may contact BUMED-M95 directly to validate their requirement and obtain access/training.

(c) For SO personnel, interim waivers may be granted by BUMED-M95 for periods of up to 6 months.

(1) Interim waivers will not normally be considered for SO candidates, in as much as their suitability must be established before the Navy incurs the expense of TAD orders and training.

(2) Because interim waivers are not reviewed by the relevant Waiver Authority, BUMED-M95 will only grant interim waivers for relatively routine, frequently encountered conditions for which it is confident of the waiver authority's eventual disposition. In any case, interim waivers should be requested sparingly.

(3) BUMED-M95 must receive the final waiver request prior to the expiration of any interim waiver which has been granted (typically 6 months). The final waiver request must include a substantive interval history pertinent to the condition under review.

(4) Individuals with lapsed interim waivers are not physically qualified to parachute or deploy until the final waiver request has been adjudicated.

(5) BUMED-M95's final recommendation will be based on the member's condition at the time the final waiver request is made and may differ from the interim determination, if there has been a change in the member's condition or if information presented in the final request dictates a change in recommendation.

(d) BUMED-M95 will perform 'courtesy screening' for SO candidates, who are potential Navy accessions, referred by their local Navy Recruiting Districts (NRD); however, these screens are not waivers.

(e) The required elements of a waiver or disqualification request are:

(1) A special SF 600, prepared by the UMO, requesting the waiver (or disqualification), referencing the specific standard for which the member is NPQ, a clinical synopsis including brief history, focused examination, clinical course, appropriate ancillary studies and appropriate specialty