

# STANDARDS FOR CHEST X-RAY PROCEDURES - AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINATION

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) is issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji (CAAF) to standardize acceptable practices for chest X-ray screening conducted as part of Aviation Medical Examinations. It establishes clear guidance for approved Aviation Medical Examiners (AMEs) and medical clinics to ensure that imaging procedures meet required diagnostic standards while following defined regulatory expectations.

## 2.0 APPLICABILITY

- 2.1 This AIC applies to
- all CAAF-approved Aviation Medical Examiners (AMEs); and
  - all CAAF-approved medical clinics, conducting aviation medical examinations.

## 3.0 REGULATORY BASIS

- 3.1 This AIC is issued under the authority of the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji in accordance with the Aviation Medical Certification framework under applicable regulations.

## 4.0 POLICY POSITION

- 4.1 All chest X-ray procedures conducted for aviation medical certification shall comply with the following principles:
- Clinical Necessity: Imaging shall meet required diagnostic standards.
  - Minimum Exposure: Only the minimum necessary exposure shall be permitted.
  - Dignity and Privacy: Patient dignity shall be maintained at all times.

## **5.0 STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1. Pre -Procedure Communication**

AMEs and clinics shall ensure that patients are:

- a) informed of the purpose of the X-ray;
- b) advised of any requirement for removal of clothing or personal items;
- c) made aware of the extent and duration of exposure; and
- d) provided the opportunity to give informed consent prior to the procedure.

### **5.2 Clothing Removal Protocol**

A stepwise approach shall be applied:

- a) Removal of metallic objects and outer garments;
- b) Assessment of initial image quality;
- c) Further removal only where artefacts are identified and clinically justified; and
- d) Complete removal of clothing shall only occur where strictly required for diagnostic purposes and the patient has been informed and consent obtained

### **5.3 Patient Covering**

5.3.1 Patients shall be provided with appropriate, artefact-minimising gowns or coverings.

5.3.2 At no stage shall patients be subjected to unnecessary or avoidable full exposure.

### **5.4 Patients Safeguards**

Clinics shall ensure the following:

- a) implementation of privacy screens or positioning techniques;
- b) presence of essential personnel only; and
- c) exposure limited to the shortest duration necessary.

### **5.5 Professional Conduct**

5.5.1. All interactions shall be respectful, professional, and proportionate to clinical need.

5.5.2 Instructions provided to patients must be clear, appropriate, and justified.

## **6.0 DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD KEEPING**

AMEs and clinics shall

6.1 Maintain documented Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for chest X-ray screening;

6.2 Retain evidence of patient briefing and informed consent

6.3. Maintain records demonstrating application of privacy and exposure controls; and

6.4 Make all documentation available to CAAF upon request for oversight, audit and investigation purposes.

## **7.0. COMPLIANCE AND OVERSIGHT**

- 7.1. Compliance with this AIC forms part of the CAAF oversight of approved AMEs and clinics.
- 7.2. Failure to comply may result in:
  - a) Regulatory review of approval status and/or
  - b) Corrective or enforcement actions as deemed appropriate by CAAF

## **8.0. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 8.1 All approved AMEs and clinics shall review and align their procedures with this AIC.

## **9.0 ENQUIRIES**

- 9.1 All enquiries regarding this AIC is to be directed to:

Personnel Licensing Office  
Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji  
Phone: (679) 8923155 ext. 3340  
Email: [licensing@caaf.org.fj](mailto:licensing@caaf.org.fj)  
Website: [www.caaf.org](http://www.caaf.org)