



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

May 7, 2013

RE: **Notification of Significant Updates for All Civil Surgeons**

Dear Civil Surgeon:

We are contacting you to inform you of a number of important announcements:

First, we would like to follow up on a letter you received November 2012, regarding upcoming changes to Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record. The letter can be accessed at www.uscis.gov/civilsurgeons. A revised version of Form I-693 was posted at www.uscis.gov/i-693. The 1/15/13 version of the form is now the current version (although USCIS will continue to accept the 10/15/11 version of Form I-693). For your reference, the following is a summary of the major changes to Form I-693:

- **Chest X-ray report is no longer required to be submitted with Form I-693.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and USCIS agreed to eliminate this requirement. Language on the form and instructions has been updated or removed accordingly. USCIS officers have been instructed to no longer request further evidence if Form I-693 is not submitted with a chest X-ray report. **(Note, this does not change the chest X-ray requirement itself)** Applicants who are required to get a chest X-ray according to CDC's Technical Instructions must still do so, and civil surgeons are still required to record the X-ray report findings on page 2 of the I-693.
- **Applicants no longer need to sign at the end of the medical exam.** Originally, instructions to Form I-693 specified that the applicant must sign the certification in Part 1 *after* the medical exam and follow-up (if required) were completed. This requirement meant applicants typically had to visit the civil surgeon twice: First, to undergo the immigration medical examination itself; and second, to sign Form I-693 after blood work and test results came back clear. Stakeholders noted that this requirement was unnecessarily burdensome, especially for applicants who had to travel long distances to see a civil surgeon. Therefore, instructions to Form I-693 were revised to allow flexibility for the applicant to sign once all health follow-up requirements have been met. This revision means applicants need only visit the civil surgeon once, for the immigration medical exam, and sign Part 1 of Form I-693 at the end of that visit. After blood work and test results clear the applicant of further tests, the civil surgeon can sign Part 3 of Form I-693 and mail the completed form in a sealed envelope to the applicant for submission to USCIS.
- **Updated syphilis and Hansen's disease sections in the Civil Surgeon Worksheet.** CDC recently updated the Technical Instructions (TIs) for Syphilis and Hansen's Disease (Leprosy),

effective January 1, 2013. The updated TIs are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/technical-instructions-civil-surgeons.html>. Form I-693 now reflects these updates: Revisions to the syphilis section of Form I-693 (page 3) are limited to minor clarifying language in the section Findings. Revisions to the Hansen's disease section of Form I-693 (page 3) add additional checkboxes in the section Findings under Class A and Class B findings. As a reminder, civil surgeons designated by USCIS are required by law to complete the medical examination of aliens according to CDC's TIs, and any updates published by CDC. The TIs and updates to the TIs can be obtained at CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/technical-instructions-civil-surgeons.html>.

NOTE: In addition to updates to the syphilis and Hansen's disease TIs, CDC provided an update on April 16, 2013 to the treatment information and links to the treatment reference sources in the *Technical Instructions for Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases* (chancroid, gonorrhea, granuloma inguinale, and lymphogranuloma venereum). The update describing changes to the TIs is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/updates/treatment-other-sexually-transmitted-diseases.html>. The updated *Technical Instructions for Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases* are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/technical-instructions/civil-surgeons/required-evaluation-components/other-sexually-transmitted.html>. If you have printed copies of these TIs to which you refer, please discard immediately and begin using the updated version as there have been important changes.

Second, we would like to inform you of important changes to the method of communication USCIS will use to correspond with civil surgeons in the future.

Until recently, USCIS forwarded letters via regular mail to inform you of important changes that affect the work of a designated civil surgeon. On March 4, 2013, USCIS added a "Get Email Updates for This Page" link on the civil surgeon website (www.uscis.gov/civilsurgeons). By clicking this link, users can sign up to receive important information and updates from USCIS directly in their email inboxes. **Please be aware that, since updates will now be available by email, USCIS will no longer send updates by regular mail.**

We encourage you to sign up for email updates so that you will continue to receive important USCIS communication about changes that affect your duties as a civil surgeon. You may sign up by following these steps:

- 1) Type www.uscis.gov/civilsurgeons into the address field of your browser.
- 2) Find the list of links on the right side of the webpage. Scroll down to the bottom of the list of links and find the link to sign up for e-mail updates ("Get Email Updates for This Page"). Click this link (a pop-up window will appear).
- 3) Complete the fields requested in the pop-up window to sign up for civil surgeon-related updates from USCIS.

Finally, USCIS will host a public engagement for civil surgeons and stakeholders to further expand on these updates. Please visit www.uscis.gov/outreach for a complete list of upcoming national engagements.

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We appreciate the efforts that you and your staff put forth to stay current with all updates and changes to the medical requirements and forms. You are providing a valuable service to this country and our immigrant community. Please do not hesitate to contact your local civil surgeon coordinator if you have any questions. If you have any medical questions or questions related to CDC's TIs, you can contact CDC directly at cdcqap@cdc.gov.

Sincerely,

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services