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Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Use of Medical Examination Completed Abroad for Afghan Nationals Applying for Adjustment of Status After Evacuation Under Operation Allies Welcome

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to allow certain Afghan nationals applying for adjustment of status after evacuation under Operation Allies Welcome (OAW)¹ to use the report of an immigration medical examination completed abroad by a panel physician to satisfy the requirement normally demonstrated on a Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record ([Form I-693](#)) completed by a USCIS-designated civil surgeon, as long as certain conditions are met.

Background

In general, those applying for immigration benefits while in the United States must submit Form I-693 to demonstrate that there are not any conditions that would render them inadmissible under the health-related grounds.²

To ease the burden placed on Afghan nationals who have already demonstrated that they are not inadmissible under the health-related grounds by undergoing an immigration medical examination completed abroad by a panel physician, USCIS has determined, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that certain Afghan nationals do not need to repeat the immigration medical examination and submit Form I-693 when they apply for adjustment of status, as long as certain conditions are met.

This guidance, contained in Volume 8 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance on the topic.

¹ On August 29, 2021, President Biden directed DHS to lead implementation of ongoing efforts across the federal government to support vulnerable Afghan nationals, including those who worked alongside the U.S. Government in Afghanistan for the past 2 decades, as they safely resettled in the United States. These coordinated efforts were initially referred to as Operation Allies Refuge, and the operation has since been renamed Operation Allies Welcome (OAW). See the [DHS OAW](#) webpage.

² See [INA 232](#) and [8 CFR 232](#) (immigration medical examination). See [INA 212\(a\)\(1\)](#) (health-related grounds of inadmissibility).

Policy Highlights

- Clarifies that Afghan nationals applying for adjustment of status after OAW evacuation do not have to repeat an immigration medical examination and submit Form I-693 as part of their adjustment application if:
 - The results of the immigration medical examination completed abroad are contained in the A-file and no Class A medical condition was reported;
 - The immigration medical examination abroad was completed by the panel physician no more than 4 years before the date of application for adjustment of status; and
 - No evidence in the A-file or testimony given at the interview suggests that the applicant has acquired a Class A medical condition after entry into the United States.

Citation

Volume 8: Admissibility, Part B, Health-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility, Chapter 3, Applicability of Medical Examination and Vaccination Requirement [[8 USCIS-PM B.3](#)].