

Immigration Medical Exams & Form I-693

USCIS Civil Surgeon Seminar Series

February 18, 2016



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Immigration Basics



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Obtaining Immigrant Status While In the United States

- When foreign nationals who are in the United States want to get lawful permanent resident status (or a Green Card), they must go through a process called adjustment of status.
- The requirements they must meet to get a Green Card depend on the immigration category they are applying under.
- Regardless of category, all applicants must be admissible before USCIS will approve their application.

Admissibility

- Grounds of inadmissibility are listed in section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- Examples are:
 - Health-related grounds
 - Criminal grounds
 - Security or terrorist grounds
 - Public charge grounds
 - Previous immigration violations
- If an applicant is inadmissible, a waiver may be available. Otherwise, the adjustment of status application will be denied.



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Health-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility

- Congress's concerns over public health have been reflected in U.S. immigration law since the Immigration Act of 1882 (persons suffering from a loathsome or a dangerous contagious disease" were barred from the United States).
- Under current law (INA 212(a)(1), foreign national are inadmissible on health-related grounds if they:
 - Have a communicable disease of public health significance,
 - Fail to show proof of required vaccinations,
 - Have a physical or mental disorder with associated harmful behavior, OR
 - Abuse or are addicted to drugs.



Class A and Class B Conditions

- **Class A medical conditions** render a foreign national inadmissible – these include active TB, active syphilis, physical or mental disorder with associated harmful behavior, and drug abuse or addiction
- **Class B medical conditions** that do not render a foreign national inadmissible – these include physical or mental abnormalities, diseases, or disabilities that constitute a substantial departure from normal health or well-being



Why A Medical Exam?

- The health-related grounds of inadmissibility, the medical examination of foreign nationals, and the vaccinations administered to foreign nationals are designed to protect the health of the U.S. population.
- The results of the medical examination and vaccination record show whether an applicant is inadmissible on health-related grounds. An applicant is admissible if they:
 - Do not have a Class A or Class B medical condition, and
 - Has complied with all vaccination requirements



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Why A Medical Exam (Continued)?

- Civil surgeons must examine the foreign national according to guidelines published by HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, These guidelines are called the Technical Instructions for the Medical Examination of Aliens in the United States and are available on CDC's website.
- USCIS uses the information to determine if a foreign national meets the health-related standards for admissibility.
- In general, all applicants for adjustment of status are required to have, at some point in time during their immigration history, a medical exam to determine admissibility to the U.S. based on health grounds.



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Waivers

- Generally, waivers are available for all individuals who are inadmissible based on health-related grounds. USCIS is required to confer with the CDC about health-related inadmissibility before we can grant a waiver.
- The standard for granting the waiver varies, depending on why the applicant is inadmissible and what immigrant category the applicant is applying under.



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Major Players?

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- The Civil Surgeon
- USCIS



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Role of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Publishing regulations addressing health-related conditions that render an applicant inadmissible;
- Establishing the medical examination requirements in its Technical Instructions for Medical Examination of Aliens (Technical Instructions)
- Responding to medical questions that officers, civil surgeons, and panel physicians may have based on the Technical Instructions;-and
- Advising USCIS on the adjudication of medical waivers.



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Role of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Officers and designated physicians must obtain the Technical Instructions from CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/index.html>
- They must also follow any updates to the Technical Instructions.



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Role of the Civil Surgeon

- Must follow the Technical Instructions and any updates, including verifying the applicant's identity and reporting any medical results to the appropriate authority as required by law).
- Must report the results of the medical examination on Form I-693 for immigration purposes.
- Notify USCIS if your contact information has changed by contacting Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.



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Role of DHS and USCIS

- Determine a foreign national's admissibility to the United States.
- Grant waivers of health-related grounds of inadmissibility after consulting with CDC.
- Designate qualified physicians as civil surgeons who conduct medical examinations of foreign nationals physically present in the United States.



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Summary: Why a Medical Exam?

The purpose of the immigration medical exam is to determine whether the applicant has a health condition that renders the applicant inadmissible.

USCIS makes the admissibility determination based on the civil surgeon's findings.

The civil surgeon determines whether the applicant has any Class A or B medical conditions



The civil surgeon records this information on Form I-693



The immigration officer reviews Form I-693 as part of the admissibility determination



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Legal Authorities Governing the Medical Examination

- INA 212(a)(1) – Health-Related Grounds
- INA 221(d) – Physical Examination
- INA 232; 8 CFR 232 – Detention of Aliens for Physical and Mental Examination
- 42 U.S.C. 252 – Medical Examination of Aliens
- 42 CFR 34 – Medical Examination of Aliens
- Technical Instructions for Civil Surgeons (Technical Instructions), and updates Available online at
<http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/technical-instructions-civil-surgeons.html>.



Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record



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Immigration Medical Exam


- **The immigration medical examination entails:**
- **A review of the applicant's medical history** (including all hospitalizations, institutionalizations for chronic conditions, illnesses or disabilities, psychoactive drug and alcohol use, and chest X-ray and treatment records if applicant has a history suggestive of TB)
- **A review of any other records available to the physician** (which may be indicative of the applicant's state of health)
- **A review of systems to determine the presence and severity of any Class A and B conditions** (ask specifically about symptoms that suggest cardiovascular, pulmonary, musculoskeletal, and/or neuropsychiatric disorders)
- **A physical examination, including an evaluation of mental status and all relevant diagnostic tests**



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Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record (Form I-693)

- Form I-693 is used to record the results of the immigration medical exam when conducted by a civil surgeon in the U.S.
- The current version of Form I-693 is available at <http://www.uscis.gov/i-693>
- Generally, civil surgeons may not use past versions of Form I-693.

 **Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record** USCIS
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Form I-693
OMB No. 1615-0033
Expires 03/31/2017

► **START HERE - Type or print in black ink.**

Part 1. Information About You (To be completed by the person requesting a medical examination, NOT the civil surgeon)

1. Name
Family Name (Last Name) Given Name (First Name) Middle Name

2. Home Address
Street Number and Name Apt. Ste. Flr. Number

City or Town State ZIP Code

3. Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female 4. Daytime Telephone Number 5. Mobile Telephone Number (if any)

6. Email Address (if any) 7. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

8. City/Town/Village of Birth 9. Country of Birth

10. Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any)
► A-

Applicant's Certification

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I am the person who is identified in Part 1. of this Form I-693, and that the information in Part 1. of this benefit request is complete, true, and correct. I understand the purpose of this medical examination, and I authorize the required tests and procedures to be completed. If it is determined that I willfully misrepresented a material fact or provided false or altered information or documents with regard to my medical examination, I understand that any immigration benefit I derived from




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Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record (Form I-693)

- Evidentiary Value for Purposes of the Admissibility Determination
 - The medical examination report was submitted to USCIS less than one year after completion of the examination.
 - The benefit application- is adjudicated no more than one year after the date the medical examination report was submitted to USCIS.



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 **Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record** USCIS
Form I-693
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
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Street Number and Name Apt. Ste. Flr. Number
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City or Town State ZIP Code
[] [] []

3. Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female 4. Daytime Telephone Number [] 5. Mobile Telephone Number (if any) []

6. Email Address (if any) [] 7. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) []

8. City/Town/Village of Birth [] 9. Country of Birth []

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► A- []

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I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I am the person who is identified in Part 1. of this Form I-693, and that the information in Part 1. of this benefit request is complete, true, and correct. I understand the purpose of this medical examination, and I authorize the required tests and procedures to be completed. If it is determined that I willfully misrepresented a material fact or provided false or altered information or documents with regard to my medical examination, I understand that any immigration benefit I derived from

Completing Form I-693

- The main objective is to correctly complete Form I-693 the first time.
- Spend time at the beginning to ensure that you correctly complete the form. This will save time later by reducing the chance that USCIS will return it.
- Completing the form correctly the first time saves time for civil surgeons, applicants, and USCIS.



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Completing Form I-693 (Continued)

- Place the original Form I-693 and any supporting documents into an envelope and seal it. On the front of the envelope, write in capital letters: “DO NOT OPEN. FOR USCIS USE ONLY.”
- On the back of the envelope, the civil surgeon should write his or her initials across the seal where the flap and the envelope meet.
- (See Form I-693 instructions.)



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Form I-910, Request for Civil Surgeon Designation



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Professional Qualifications Required for Civil Surgeon Designation

- USCIS may designate a physician as a civil surgeon if the physician:
 - Is authorized to work in the United States,
 - Is currently licensed as a M.D. or D.O. in the state in which he or she practices, and
 - Has 4 years of professional experience, not including residency or other training.




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Applying for Civil Surgeon Designation

To apply for civil surgeon designation, submit a Form I-910, Request for Civil Surgeon Designation, to USCIS.



 Application for Civil Surgeon Designation Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services		USCIS Form I-910 OMB No. 1615-0114 Expires 10/31/2015	
For USCIS Use Only	Initial Receipt	Barcode	Action Block
	Resubmitted		
	Relocated		
	Received	Sent	
Remarks			CSID Number:
To Be Completed by an Attorney or Accredited Representative, if any.		<input type="checkbox"/> Select the box if Form G-28 is attached to represent the applicant.	Attorney State License Number:
▶ START HERE - Type or print in black ink.			
Part 1. For Previously Designated Civil Surgeons		Part 2. Information About You (Physician requesting designation or renewal)	
1.a. Have you ever been designated as a civil surgeon before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you selected "Yes," provide the following information:		Your Full Name	
1.b. Period of Designation (mm/dd/yyyy) From ▶ <input type="text"/> To ▶ <input type="text"/>		1.a. Family Name (Last Name) <input type="text"/>	
1.c. USCIS Office that granted the designation <input type="text"/>		1.b. Given Name (First Name) <input type="text"/>	
1.d. Civil Surgeon Identification Number (if known) <input type="text"/>		1.c. Middle Name <input type="text"/>	
2.a. Has USCIS ever revoked your designation?		Other Information	
		2. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ▶ <input type="text"/>	
		Part 3. Clinical Office Location(s)	

Blanket Designation of Health Department Physicians

- Physicians at health departments who meet the civil surgeon professional qualifications are granted blanket designation as civil surgeons only for the limited purpose of completing the vaccination portion of Form I-693 for refugees adjusting status
- Participation in the blanket designation is optional; health department physicians are not required to act as civil surgeons
- No application is required – as long as the physician is on the roster at a local or state health department and meets the professional qualifications of a civil surgeon, he or she may be considered a blanket-designated civil surgeon
- If a refugee needs to undergo the entire immigration medical exam, he or she must go to a civil surgeon who is designated under the standard application process



Refugees Applying for Adjustment of Status

Health department physicians acting as civil surgeons under the blanket designation may ONLY perform the vaccination assessment and ONLY for a refugee who:

- Is applying for adjustment of status under INA 209,
- Already had an immigration medical examination overseas, AND
- Is not required to repeat any part of the immigration medical examination (A refugee who enters the U.S. with a Class A condition will need a complete medical examination performed by a designated civil surgeon.)



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Blanket Designation of Military Physicians

Blanket civil surgeon designation for military physicians is entirely voluntary and at the discretion of each medical facility. This blanket designation only applies to military physicians who:

- Are licensed in any state in the U.S.(no requirement to be licensed in the state where they will be performing the examinations);
- Have 4 years of professional experiences, not including residency or other training;
- Are employed by the Department of Defense (DOD) or provides medical services to U.S. armed forces members, veterans, and their dependents as military contract providers or civilian physicians; and
- Are authorized to provide medical services at a military treatment facility (MTF) within the United States.



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Locating a Civil Surgeon

Civil Surgeon Locator (public listing of civil surgeons):

- Go to: www.uscis.gov and click the link for “**Find A Medical Doctor (Civil Surgeon)**” on the left side of the page.
- Call the **USCIS National Customer Service Center** at 1-800-375-5283 and follow the instructions to hear a recorded listing of civil surgeons in your area.



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USCIS Policy Manual

Civil Surgeons can find information about the medical examination and civil surgeon designation in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#):

- [Volume 8, Part B – Health-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility](#)
- [Volume 8, Part C – Civil Surgeon Designation and Revocation](#)



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Technical Instructions and CDC Contact Information

For questions about the Technical Instructions and medical exam requirements:

- www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/technical-instructions-civil-surgeons.html
- Send inquiry to CDC at www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/requestform.html



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USCIS Contact Information

- An immigration-related question or question about completing Form I-693, or civil surgeon designation: Send inquiry to USCIS Customer Service and Public Engagement at public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov
- A question about a completed Form I-693 that is being adjudicated at a USCIS service center (as opposed to a field office): scopsscata@uscis.dhs.gov
- Where to find the most updated contact information: Designated Civil Surgeons at www.uscis.gov/tools/designated-civil-surgeons



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About This Presentation

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