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NASA Policy Directive

NPD 8900.5A

Effective Date: May 16, 2006

Expiration Date: May 16, 2011

COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY

[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Request Notification of Change

(NASA Only)

Subject: NASA Health and Medical Policy for Human Space Exploration

Responsible Office: Office of the Chief Health & Medical Officer

1. POLICY

It is NASA's policy to:

- a. Provide a healthy and safe environment for crewmembers to enable successful human space exploration.
- b. Provide health and medical care systems for crewmembers for all mission phases--prior, during, and after space flights.

Note: Health is defined as encompassing physiological, psychological, and dental well-being. Medical refers to the treatment of illness and injury.

- c. Update crewmember health and medical services based on best supporting evidence and current standards of medical practice, lessons learned, risk management, and expert recommendations.
- d. Design initial and recurrent medical training for crewmembers, consistent with mission requirements, and commensurate with available resources and priorities.
- e. Establish space flight health and medical standards that address:
 - (1) Health and medical screening, evaluation, and certification (including medical selection and retention standards).
 - (2) Health and medical diagnosis, intervention, and care (including management and training).
 - (3) Health maintenance, preventive programs, and countermeasures (including permissible exposure limits, permissible outcome limits, and fitness for duty standards).

(4) Habitability and environmental health guidelines and standards, as appropriate.

Note: These habitability and environmental health standards are documented in NASA-STD-3000, Man-Systems Integration Standards, which establishes design standards for all space facilities and related equipment that directly interface with crewmembers.

f. Sponsor health and clinical research to enable human space exploration.

2. APPLICABILITY

This NPD is applicable to NASA Headquarters and all NASA Centers, including Component Facilities.

3. AUTHORITY

42 U.S.C. 2473 (c)(1) Section 203 (c)(1), et seq., of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended.

4. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

- a. NPD 1000.3B, The NASA Organization.
- b. NPD 8070.6B, Technical Standards.
- c. NPD 8700.1C, NASA Policy for Safety and Mission Success.
- d. NPR 8705.2A, Human-Rating Requirements for Space Systems.
- e. NPD 8900.1F, Medical Operations Responsibilities in Support of Human Space Flight Programs.
- f. NPR 8900.1, Health and Medical Requirements for Human Space Exploration.
- g. NASA-STD-3000, Man-Systems Integration Standards-Vol. 1-3.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

a. The Chief Health and Medical Officer shall:

- (1) Promulgate health and medical policy.
- (2) Serve as NASA's independent health and medical authority.
- (3) Establish and maintain mission-specific human health and medical standards for space flight.
- (4) Define appropriate levels of medical care for space flight.
- (5) Review and approve all human health-related and medical requirements for space exploration.
- (6) Review and approve all human health-related research requirements and

deliverables.

Note: Human health research deliverables are biomedical knowledge, pharmaceuticals, procedures, protocols, hardware, software, health or medical devices, or technology developed to directly affect the health of crewmembers derived from completed research studies that are ready for transfer to the appropriate operational community.

(7) Approve operational implementation of human health-related research deliverables that enable human space exploration.

(8) Approve operational use of health and medical systems and technologies prior to their use in space exploration.

b. The Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Mission Directorate shall:

(1) Formulate Directorate-level requirements for Exploration Systems, including health-related and medical requirements, based on Agency-level exploration requirements and NASA standards.

(2) Develop research and technology deliverables to an appropriate stage of readiness level for final review, approval, and implementation.

(3) Develop and mature targeted human health and medical research and technologies aimed at enabling sustained and affordable human and robotic exploration.

c. The Associate Administrator for Space Operations Mission Directorate shall:

(1) Utilize human health and medical technology and support human medical development activities in cooperation and coordination with other Mission Directorates.

(2) Manage flight crew health and safety to include the following:

(a) Implementation of crew health and medical care systems.

(b) Compliance with health and medical requirements.

(c) Management of in-flight research activities.

(d) Crew participation in in-flight research, as appropriate.

(e) Integration of and use of Chief Health and Medical Officer- approved health and medical technologies for extravehicular and intravehicular activity.

6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None.

7. MEASUREMENTS/VERIFICATION

The Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer will provide assessments of the application of this directive.

8. CANCELLATION

NPD 8900.5, Review and Approval of Human Health-Related Research Requirements and Biomedical Research Deliverables, dated May 20, 2003.

**/s/ Michael Griffin
Administrator**

ATTACHMENT A: (TEXT)

None.

(URL for Graphic)

None.

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