

## **NASA MEDICAL POLICY BOARD AND AEROSPACE MEDICINE BOARD**

### **1. PURPOSE**

This charter establishes the Medical Policy Board (MPB) at NASA Headquarters (HQ) and the Aerospace Medicine Board (AMB) at the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) and defines their responsibilities, membership, and functions.

### **2. APPLICABILITY/SCOPE**

This charter is applicable to NASA Headquarters, NASA Centers, including Component Facilities, all crewmembers operating spacecraft under NASA control or cognizance, and aircraft operations in support of space flight activities.

### **3. AUTHORITY**

42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(1), section 203(c)(1) of The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended.

### **4. FUNCTIONS**

The MPB at HQ is responsible for health and medical policy and oversight of medical activities including:

a. Evaluating and formulating medical policy governing atmospheric and space flight, by:

(1) Reviewing, approving, and publishing NASA spacecraft and appropriate aircraft crewmember medical standards.

(2) Annually reviewing the process used to implement the medical standards and the status of the deviations from these standards (waivers).

(3) Periodically reviewing the epidemiological findings from the Longitudinal Study of Astronaut Health (LSAH).

b. Sponsoring or conducting independent reviews to formulate or clarify health and medical policies.

c. Assessing the efficacy of health maintenance and preventive medical measures used in human space flight for health-risk reduction.

d. Considering any policy issues related to crew medical qualifications for spacecraft or support aircraft operations.

- e. Reviewing, in the event of an appeal, the medical qualifications of the astronaut candidate finalists submitted by the AMB during astronaut-selection cycles.
- f. Reviewing waivers in excess of six months and permanent medical disqualifications.
- g. Formulating changes to medical policies and updating medical standards and procedures with the goal of health and medical-risk reduction.
- h. Ensuring an independent assessment of the medical-risk management process.

The AMB at JSC is primarily a clinical and implementation body for addressing crew medical qualifications. The AMB is responsible for the following:

a. Review of:

- (1) Findings from examinations conducted in accordance with NASA Space Flight Medical Selection and Retention (Annual) Standards and recommendation of appropriate dispositions.
- (2) Medical conditions or restrictions of any NASA flight medical evaluations when requested by a crewmember or certifying authority of a NASA-operated aircraft or spacecraft.
- (3) Statistical data on morbidity and mortality from the LSAH and cumulative medical events before, during, and after space missions.

b. Recommendation to the MPB of:

- (1) Criteria and procedures for the designation of examining facilities for medical certification for space flight.
- (2) Updates to medical policies and standards.
- (3) Interventions to enhance crew health and safety by reducing exposure risks.

c. Determining the medical qualifications of astronaut-candidate finalists during astronaut-selection cycles.

d. Addressing crewmember failures to meet the NASA medical standards for spacecraft or aircraft duties.

e. Issuance or denial of requests for a medical waiver as outlined in subsection 6.19.4.5.c.

f. Responding to requests from a NASA Medical Examining Officer, the MPB Chair, the Director of Space and Life Sciences at JSC, or the Director of Flight Crew Operations at JSC.

#### Convening the Boards

- a. The MPB will convene annually or at the call of the Chair.
- b. The AMB will be convened at the call of the Chair.

#### Responsibilities of Chairs

a. The MPB Chair is responsible for the following:

- (1) Convening the ICB.
- (2) Reviewing and disposition of recommendations for waivers of duty in excess of six months and permanent medical disqualifications.
- (3) Approving all permanent waivers for the flight crewmembers.
- (4) Formulating coordinated MPB and AMB recommendations.

b. The AMB Chair is responsible for the following:

- (1) Convening the ICB.
- (2) Certifying crewmembers pre- and post-space flight and before return to regular duties following space flights.
- (3) The annual medical certification of astronauts with flying duties for NASA aircraft, as appropriate.
- (4) Reporting medical findings which could impact medical policies and procedures to the MPB Chair.

**Waivers.** If the examining physician finds a disqualifying condition, then the crewmember is denied medical certification until the AMB reviews the findings.

- a. A written request for a medical waiver to qualify the examinee for duties should be submitted to the AMB Chair by the examining physician, or the examinee, within 30-working days after notification of disqualification.

b. In the interim, and until the review process is complete, the AMB Chair may grant a temporary waiver to the examinee for a period not to exceed 60 days.

c. The AMB will consider and issue or deny requests for a medical waiver to qualify for flight status. For those waivers of longer than a six month period or for permanent medical disqualifications, the AMB will submit its recommendation to the MPB Chair.

d. Upon receipt of the AMB recommendation and after appropriate review, the MPB Chair will inform the AMB Chair of his/her decision.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP

### MPB

a. The Chief Health and Medical Officer (CHMO) or official designee, NASA Headquarters, is the Chair.

b. The MPB will consist of up to 15 members, all of whom must be physicians and full-time Federal employees cognizant of aerospace medicine. Membership should reflect diversity and representation from NASA Centers and other Federal agencies. The AMB Chair will be a member of the MPB. The MPB Chair must be certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in the field of aerospace medicine. The MPB Chair will appoint at least one astronaut physician to the MPB. Consultants and ad hoc advisors to the MPB, as well as guests, need not be physicians or full-time Federal employees, pursuant to paragraph d below. The NASA General Counsel, or designee, will act as an advisor to the MPB.

c. Discussions may be held on medical policy matters, medical standards, or medical and health care studies. Each member of the MPB shall have the right to voice opinions and recommendations on all matters considered by the MPB. The MPB Chair will formulate final MPB findings and recommendations based on all input received. Dissenting opinions will be identified in the minutes. The CHMO formulates and establishes health and medical policy.

d. For the purpose of providing the members of the MPB with an ongoing capability for consultation and advice, the following three nonmember categories are created:

(1) Consultants who may be invited to all proceedings of the MPB. They may be nominated by any member of the MPB and approved by the MPB Chair.

(2) Ad hoc advisors who shall attend MPB proceedings on an as-needed basis. Ad hoc advisors may be nominated by any member of the MPB and approved by the MPB Chair.

(3) Any member of the MPB may invite guests with the approval of the MPB Chair.

(4) Consultants, ad hoc advisors, and guests who are experts in their fields may be chosen from academia, other Federal agencies, the private sector, etc.

e. The MPB appoints members to the MPB and will appoint one of the members, who is not an astronaut, as the Executive Secretary.

f. The Executive Secretary will act as MPB Chair during the absence of the Chair.

#### AMB

a. With concurrence from the CHMO, the Director of JSC will designate a senior JSC physician, who is not an astronaut, as the AMB Chair.

b. A minimum of four JSC physicians, named by the AMB Chair, constitute the permanent AMB membership.

c. All members must be physicians and full-time NASA employees. At least one member must be certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine in the field of aerospace medicine.

d. Each member of the AMB shall have an equal vote. The AMB Chair will formulate final findings and recommendations based on the votes tallied. In the event of a tie, the AMB Chair will cast the deciding vote. The findings and recommendations will include the minority of the member's view, if any.

e. A physician from a NASA Center other than JSC will be appointed to the membership of the AMB when aviation medical evaluations from that NASA Center are under consideration.

f. The AMB Chair will appoint one of the voting members, who is not an astronaut, as Executive Secretary of the AMB.

g. The Executive Secretary of the AMB will act as AMB Chair during the absence of the AMB Chair.

#### 6. MEETINGS

Quorum Requirements. The minimum number of members required to conduct MPB proceedings will consist of the AMB Chair and a majority of the current membership. The minimum number of members required to conduct AMB proceedings will consist of the AMB Chair and three members.

The MPB and AMB Chairs shall have the right, at any time, to close a session of their respective Boards. When this right is exercised, all nonmembers will be required to leave. Specifically, the Chairs are required to close a session when discussing classified

or privileged information or information involving privacy considerations or that is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

The MPB Chair can designate a temporary study group to address special health and medical issues on behalf of the Boards. At least one half of the members of the study group will consist of MPB or AMB members.

Reference 6.19.4.3, Convening the Boards, for information regarding scheduling of ICB meetings.

#### 7. DURATION

This charter will remain in existence at the discretion of the Administrator.

#### 8. ASSESSMENT

The AMB will provide an annual report of accomplishments to the CHMO for assessment of performance, and the MPB will provide an annual report of accomplishments to the NASA Operations Management Council for assessment of performance.

#### 9. RECORDS

Any individual's medical information is subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and is part of the system of medical records. All regulations, laws, and controls applicable to this system of medical records extend to this report.

- a. The CHMO is responsible for the maintenance of this charter and all records associated with the MPB.
- b. The Executive Secretary of the MPB will prepare a written report of all meetings and actions of the MPB.
- c. The Chair AMB is responsible for the maintenance of all records associated with the AMB.
- d. The Executive Secretary of the AMB will prepare a written report of all meetings and actions of the AMB.

The Chair MPB will provide recommendations to the appropriate Mission Directorate Associate Administrator or an authorized official for review and action.

The Chair AMB will provide findings and recommendations to the MPB Chair for review within ten working days from the AMB meeting.

**NC 1000-12**  
**Effective: July 25, 2007**