

## USE OF ANTIDEPRESSANT MEDICATIONS

(Updated 06/28/2023)

If you are an **AIRMAN** taking an SSRI – see [Airman Information - SSRI INITIAL Certification](#)

If you are an **ATCS** taking an SSRI – see [FAA ATCS How to Guide](#)

The FAA has determined that pilots or FAA Air Traffic Control Specialists (FAA ATCS) requesting medical certificates while being treated with one of several specific antidepressant medications may be considered. The Authorization decision is made on a case-by-case basis. **The AME may not issue.**

If the airman/FAA ATCS opts to discontinue use of the SSRI, the AME must notate in Block 60, Comments on History and Findings, on FAA Form 8500-8 and defer issuance. To reapply for regular issuance, the applicant must be off the SSRI for a minimum of 60 days with a favorable report from the treating physician indicating stable mood and no aeromedically significant side effects. See [SSRI Decision Path I](#)

An individual may be considered for an FAA Authorization of a Special Issuance (SI) or Special Consideration (SC) of a Medical Certificate (Authorization) if:

**1.) The applicant has one of the following diagnoses:**

- Major depressive disorder (mild to moderate) either single episode or recurrent episode;
- Dysthymic disorder;
- Adjustment disorder with depressed mood; or
- Any non-depression related condition for which the SSRI is used

**2.) For a minimum of 6 continuous months prior, the applicant has been clinically stable as well as on a stable dose of medication without any aeromedically significant side effects and/or an increase in symptoms.** If the applicant has been on the medication under 6 months, the AME must advise that 6 months of continuous use is required before SI/SC consideration.

**3.) The medication used is one the following (single use only; not combined):**

- Fluoxetine (Prozac)
- Sertraline (Zoloft)
- Citalopram (Celexa)
- Escitalopram (Lexapro)
- bupropion/Wellbutrin extended release (XL) or sustained release (SR)

If the applicant is on a SSRI that is not listed above, the AME must advise that the medication is not acceptable for SI/SC consideration.

**4.) The applicant DOES NOT have symptoms or history of:**

- Psychosis
- Suicidal ideation
- Electro convulsive therapy
- Treatment with multiple SSRIs concurrently