

Aeromedical Physician Assistant (APA)—A physician assistant who graduated from AMP and carries the AFSC or special identifier, credentialed to provide health care to flight and SOD personnel in accordance with AFMAN 48-149. They conduct shop visits and fly on a noninterference basis on airframes served by their clinic. Refer to AFI 48-149 for further PA-specific duty details.

A Flight Medicine PA can serve a number of roles at either an active duty base or a guard base. Duties include annual flight physicals for Flyers, taking care of PJs, seeing acute complaints of Flyers, managing medications, conducting shop visits around the base, writing waivers (NARSUMS) for medical conditions, periodic education sessions with flight crew, and other various responsibilities depending on the flying mission and how the flight medicine clinic is manned.

In order to become credentialed in flight medicine, the provider needs to attend the Aerospace Medicine Primary (AMP) series of courses at USAFSAM at Wright Patterson AFB. AMP 201 is the most technical “nuts and bolts” academic course where the PA will learn how to write NARSUMS and waivers using the Air Force Waiver Guide, Official Aircrew Medication List, and the Medical Standards Directory (MSD), submit waivers, learn the ASIMS system to complete 469s, 422s, 2992s. The Flight PA will also present a Deployment Briefing addressing medical concerns specific to theater location. PAs will be introduced to the altitude chamber and its physiological effects. Once this 2-week course is completed, PAs can start conducting some of these flight duties at their home base.

AMP 101 has recently been broken into AFOM 101 and AFOM 102. These courses are a practical introduction to the career field. Students will learn about different airframes and how the medical assets fit into Air Force operations. Providers will visit the firehouse to meet rescue divers, go up in a basket, and shoot the fire hose. Providers will go to Calamityville to triage trauma victims and arrange air transport. Students will even visit the airfield and engage in an introductory flight with an instructor pilot.

The last session is AMP 202, which examines hazards of flight, mental and physical stresses on flight crew, acceleration physiology, g-forces, and medical management of these factors. Students will be exposed to G-forces in the centrifuge as well as in flight through multiple flying sorties throughout the course: formation flying, stunt flying, night missions, and helicopter flying. At the conclusion of all AMP courses, PA's will be able to graduate and apply to get a “P” after their AFSC if working as a PA in the Air Force for 2 years and in Flight Medicine for 6 months.

To find class dates and further course information, visit:

<https://usafsam.geniussis.com/Registration.aspx>. You will need SGP approval from your base. In order to take AMP 202, you will need to be in (or going to be in) a flight medicine billet.