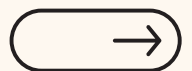




Adjustment of Status & Green Cards: Understanding the Medical Examination (Form I-693) Process

A Guide to Health Prerequisites, Civil Surgeons, and Vaccination Requirements



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Welcome & Overview

To ensure public safety and manage public health risks, the U.S. government requires most permanent residency applicants to undergo a comprehensive medical evaluation. This process is documented using Form I-693, Report of Immigration Medical Examination and Vaccination Record.

The examination establishes that an applicant is not inadmissible to the United States on health-related grounds, such as communicable diseases of public health significance or a lack of required vaccinations. Navigating the timing, finding an authorized physician, and understanding what to bring to your appointment are essential to keeping your green card application on track.

Important Notice: Immigration medical rules, including mandatory vaccine lists, change frequently based on federal directives. This guide serves as an educational resource and does not constitute formal legal or medical advice. Gonzalez Law Offices charges for comprehensive case evaluations and legal strategy sessions.

The 4 Core Checklists for the Immigration Medical Exam

Section 1: Finding an Authorized Civil Surgeon

You cannot visit your regular family doctor or primary care physician for this exam unless they are specifically certified by the government.

- **USCIS Doctor Locator:** You must choose a physician designated as an authorized Civil Surgeon by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- **The MyUSCIS Tool:** Use the official Find a Civil Surgeon online tool to locate authorized doctors practicing near your zip code.
- **Fee Comparisons:** Civil surgeons operate as independent businesses. It is recommended to call multiple local offices to compare pricing, as fees vary significantly for the exam, blood work, and required lab tests.
- **Insurance Verification:** Most private health insurance plans do not cover immigration-specific medical examinations. Verify all out-of-pocket costs with the clinic beforehand.

Section 2: Documents to Bring to Your Appointment

Arriving unprepared can delay your lab work or require you to pay for redundant medical procedures. Gather these items before your visit:

- **Form I-693:** Bring the latest version of Form I-693 downloaded directly from the USCIS website. Leave all signature blocks blank, as they must be signed in front of the doctor.
- **Official Photo Identification:** A valid passport, national identity card, or state-issued driver's license.
- **Comprehensive Vaccine Records:** Official, English-translated records of all past immunizations, childhood vaccine booklets, or certified laboratory antibody titer test results proving immunity.
- **Medical History Reports:** Detailed reports regarding the supervision or management of any major chronic illnesses, psychiatric conditions, or prior tuberculosis treatments.

Section 3: Shifting Vaccination Requirements

- The Civil Surgeon must confirm you have received all age-appropriate, legally mandated vaccinations. The typical list includes:



- **Respiratory and Viral Coverage:** Influenza (required during the official annual flu season), COVID-19, Varicella (Chickenpox), and Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR).
- **Bacterial and Toxoid Coverage:** Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap), Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), and Pneumococcal pneumonia.
- **Hepatitis Protocols:** Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B (typically required for younger age brackets or designated risk groups).
- **Clinic Administration:** If your records are incomplete, the civil surgeon can administer the missing doses during your appointment, though this will add to your total clinic invoice.

Section 4: Testing Protocols and Handling the Results

The evaluation involves physical assessments, blood draws, and urine collections to screen for specific infectious agents.

- **Communicable Disease Screening:** Applicants aged 15 or older are routinely screened via blood tests for Syphilis (RPR) and Tuberculosis (IGRA), and via urine tests for Gonorrhea.
- **The Sealed Envelope Rule:** Once all lab results return, the Civil Surgeon compiles the form and seals it inside a secure envelope. Do not open this envelope under any circumstances. If the seal is broken, USCIS will immediately reject the form.
- **Copy for Your Records:** The clinic will provide you with a separate, unsealed paper copy of the completed Form I-693 for your personal files.
- **Form Validity Timelines:** A signed Form I-693 generally retains its administrative validity indefinitely if filed properly with an active green card application, reducing the need for costly secondary exams.

Key Takeaways for Applicants

- **Plan Ahead:** Schedule your medical exam early enough to account for turnaround times on lab work, but consult your legal team to ensure your submission strategy aligns with your wider Form I-485 filing window.
- **Treatments First:** If you test positive for an infectious condition like latent tuberculosis, you must complete the required public health treatment or clearing protocols with the civil surgeon before the **form can be finalized**.
- **Zero Tampering:** Keep the doctor's official envelope safe, clean, and completely sealed until it is ready to be mailed directly to the government lockbox.



Need Personalized Guidance?

Managing the health screening requirements of the permanent residency framework demands careful organization and strict adherence to procedural guidelines. At Gonzalez Law Offices, we guide clients seamlessly through every administrative and legal milestone of the adjustment of status pathway.

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