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## Medical Class and Duration

### When's my Medical Due?

OK, generally speaking—

1st class (ATP PIC privileges)	12 months under 40/6 months over 40
2nd class (Commercial privileges)	60 months under 40/12 months over 40
3rd class (Private Pilot privileges)	60 months under 40/24 months over 40

Why generally speaking? Shouldn't this be something easy and straight forward? Yes, but it isn't.

That's because the FAA wants to make our lives a little bit easier (seriously).

Type of Medical	Age (at last exam)	Operation	Expiration
1st Class	Under 40	Airline PIC	12 calendar months
	40 or older	Airline PIC	6 calendar months
2nd Class	Under 40	Commercial/Airline SIC	12 calendar months
	40 or older	Commercial/Airline SIC	12 calendar months
3rd Class	Under 40	Private	60 calendar months
	40 or older	Private	24 calendar months

This is a simplified version of a table in 14 CFR 61.23. For more specifics, refer to that table.

When exactly you have to get your medical renewed is dependent upon the piloting privileges you want to be able to exercise with it.

If, for example, you want to act at PIC at an airline, you need a new first class medical every 12 months if under 40 and 6 months if over 40. But, if you want to keep a first class medical but use it to flight instruct (3rd class privileges), you can use it for the full 60 months. You just won't be able to use it for airline stuff (or anything else that requires 1st class privileges).

Note, however: It is still a first class medical. It's common to say that it turns into a 3rd class medical. It doesn't. While functionally there isn't a huge difference, some examiners are weirder about it than others. And frankly, they're technically right, so we might as well cooperate. If you use a higher class medical than is required for your operation, your medical will expire in accordance with the standard expiration in the table above, for the minimum class of medical required for that operation.

In other words, say you are a 25 year old airline PIC but you fly general aviation in your time off. After 12 months, you are no longer able to use your 1st class privileges as an airline PIC, but you can still continue using it for private pilot privileges up to 60 calendar months (in this case

## BasicMed

BasicMed is a new standard which allows pilots to fly without a current medical. In order to be eligible for BasicMed, a pilot must have:

- Previously held a medical certificate after July 14, 2006
- Have a current U.S. Driver's License
- Have a physical exam from a state-licensed physician using the BasicMed exam checklist
- Complete a BasicMed education course.

Limitations— Pilots using BasicMed are limited in the operations in which they can act as PIC:

- Aircraft can't carry more than 5 passengers, or be certified to carry more than 5 passengers.
- Maximum certified takeoff weight no higher than 6,000lbs
- Operates IFR or VFR in the U.S. and below 18,000 feet and 250 knots
- Flights cannot be operated for compensation nor hire



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