**061**

# REGULATORY ASSESSMENT BY THE UK CAA OF APPLICANTS DECLARING HIV SEROPOSITIVITY

*EXAMEN RÉGLEMENTAIRE PAR LA CAA DU ROYAUME-UNI DES CANDIDATS DÉCLARANT LA SÉROPOSITIVITÉ DU VIH*

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Introduction: The UK CAA published a protocol for the assessment of applicants with HIV in 2007. The EU Aircrew Regulations were implemented in the UK in 2012. There have been significant developments in the management of HIV infection since with data showing a near normal life expectancy for well-managed individuals. The aim of this study was to look at the assessment in the UK of applicants who have declared a positive HIV test to see whether there is a need to review and revise policy in light of developments in infection management.

Methods: A search was conducted on the CAA's electronic medical records system for applicants declaring HIV seropositivity. Data was gathered from individuals' records for a number of fields date of first certificate application after diagnosis, class of certificate applied for and type of medical (initial, revalidation/renewal), assessment outcome (including results of cognitive function testing) and any subsequent unfit assessment up to May 2017.

Results: The records for 33 people who applied for a medical certificate between 2002 and 2017 were reviewed. The number of applicants declaring a positive HIV test per year has increased from 1.4/year between 2002 and 2007 to 3.8/year between 2012 and 2017. Prior to 2007 most applicants were assessed as unfit and since 2012 most are assessed as fit. No initial class 1 certificates have been issued since 2012. Since 2002, 18 of 33 applicants were assessed as fit. In a further 7 cases, applicants successfully managed most of the components of the assessment but did not submit the results of cognitive function testing.

Conclusions: There is a need to review the role of cognitive function testing and reassess the route to initial Class 1 medical certification in light of the developments in infection management.