

Subject: To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat (TREAT) Astronauts Policy

Responsible Office: Office of the Chief Health & Medical Officer

1. POLICY

It is NASA’s policy to provide medical and psychological monitoring and diagnosis of former astronauts for conditions potentially associated with spaceflight and to provide treatment of former astronauts for spaceflight-associated conditions per 14 CFR § 1241, To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts.

2. APPLICABILITY

- a. This NID is applicable to NASA Headquarters and the Johnson Space Center (JSC).
- b. In this directive, all mandatory actions (i.e. requirements) are denoted by statements containing the term “shall.” The terms “may” denotes a discretionary privilege or permission, “can” denotes statements of possibility or capability, “should” denotes a good practice and is recommended, but not required, “will” denotes expected outcome, and “are/is” denotes descriptive material.
- c. In this directive, all document citations are assumed to be the latest version unless otherwise noted.

3. AUTHORITY

- a. The National Aeronautics and Space Act, 51 U.S.C. § 20113 (a).
- b. Medical Monitoring and Research Relating to Human Space Flight, 51 U.S.C. § 20149.
- c. To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat (TREAT) Astronauts, 14 CFR § 1241.

4. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

None.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

- a. The Chief Health and Medical Officer (CHMO), as the TREAT Astronauts Act authority:
 - (1) Determines which medical and psychological claims and conditions are associated with or potentially associated with spaceflight, provides medical care for spaceflight-associated conditions as specified in and required by 14 CFR § 1241.
 - (2) Establishes the TREAT Astronauts Act Board (TAAB), with charter, to evaluate individual spaceflight-associated condition claims, provide recommendations, and dissenting opinions.
 - (3) Appoints, with concurrence from the JSC Center Director, the TAAB located at the JSC.

- (4) Notifies the NASA Administrator of CHMO claims decisions based on TAAB case dispositions, including recommendations and dissenting opinions.
- (5) Notifies the Agency Chief Financial Officer (CFO), annually or as necessary, of charges for medical care covered under 14 CFR § 1241.
- (6) Notifies the General Counsel of cases in which illness or injury may lead to spaceflight-associated condition claims against the Agency.
- (7) Directs studies to enhance, inform, and clarify data related to spaceflight associated physiology and pathology, or the implementation of 14 CFR § 1241.
- (8) Provides for the furthering of spaceflight knowledge related to evidence acquired and gained through 14 CFR § 1241 by working with the Department of Labor Office of Workers' Compensation Programs Chief Medical Officer, Federal Aviation Administration Federal Air Surgeon, and other entities as needed to impart a greater understanding of spaceflight-associated physiology, pathology, and hazards.
- (9) Provides an annual report to the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) for submission to Congress detailing the cost of implementing this program. This report will include, at a minimum:
 - (a) Annual detailed cost account of the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of eligible individuals under the TREAT Astronauts Act.
 - (b) A 5-year budget.

b. The TAAB Chair:

- (1) Leads the evaluation of individual spaceflight-associated condition claims and documenting recommendations and dissenting opinions.
- (2) Notifies the CHMO of TAAB case dispositions, including dissenting opinions, and recommendations.

c. The JSC Center Director:

- (1) Provides access to medical care under 14 CFR § 1241.
- (2) Acquires healthcare data related to the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of former astronauts who are being provided care under 14 CFR § 1241, in order to better inform human health risks for both Government and commercial spaceflight.
- (3) Submits an annual report to the CHMO detailing medical care and associated costs provided to former astronauts authorized by 14 CFR § 1241.
- (4) Hosts the TAAB and concurs on CHMO appointments to the TAAB.
- (5) Conducts periodic surveys of participants and stakeholders to evaluate program effectivity.

6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None.

7. MEASUREMENT/VERIFICATION

- a. The CHMO measures compliance with this directive by requiring:

(1) An annual report detailing TAAB activities, recommendations and costs.

(2) Periodic surveys of participants and stakeholders to evaluate effectivity.

8. CANCELLATION

None

Administrator

ATTACHMENT A: Acronyms

CHMO – Chief Health and Medical Officer

JSC – Johnson Space Center

OLIA – Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

TAAB – TREAT Astronauts Act Board

TREAT - To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat