

## APPENDIX 1

### DIVING MEDICAL EXAM OVERVIEW FOR THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN

TO THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN:

This person, \_\_\_\_\_, requires a medical examination to assess his/her fitness for certification as a Scientific Diver for the University of Alaska (UA). His /her answers on the Diving Medical History Form (attached), may indicate potential health or safety risks as noted. Your evaluation is requested on the attached scuba Diving Fitness Medical Evaluation Report. If you have questions about diving medicine, you may wish to consult one of the references on the attached list or contact one of the physicians with expertise in diving medicine whose names and phone numbers appear on an attached list. Please contact the undersigned Diving Safety Officer if you have any questions or concerns about diving medicine or the UA standards. Thank you for your assistance.

_____	_____
Diving Safety Officer	Date
_____	_____
Printed Name	Phone Number

Scuba and other modes of compressed-gas diving can be strenuous and hazardous. A special risk is present if the middle ear, sinuses or lung segments do not readily equalize air pressure changes. The most common cause of distress is eustachian insufficiency. Most fatalities involve deficiencies in prudence, judgement, emotional stability or physical fitness. Please consult the following list of conditions which usually restrict candidates from diving.

(Adapted from Bove, 1998: 61 -63, bracketed numbers are pages in Bove)

#### CONDITIONS WHICH MAY DISQUALIFY CANDIDATES FROM DIVING

1. Abnormalities of the tympanic membrane, such as perforation, presence of a monomeric membrane, or inability to autoinflate the middle ears. [5,7,8,9]
2. Vertigo including Meniere's Disease. [13]
3. Stapedectomy or middle ear reconstructive surgery. [11]
4. Recent ocular surgery. [15,18,19]
5. Psychiatric disorders including claustrophobia, suicidal ideation, psychosis, anxiety states, untreated depression. [20 - 23]
6. Substance abuse, including alcohol. [24-25]
7. Episodic loss of consciousness. [1, 26,27]
8. History of seizure. [27, 28]
9. History of stroke or a fixed neurological deficit. [29,30]
10. Recurring neurologic disorders, including transient ischemic attacks. [29,30]
11. History of intracranial aneurysm, other vascular malformation or intracranial hemorrhage. [31]

12. History of neurological decompression illness with residual deficit. [29,30]
13. Head injury with sequelae. [26, 27]
14. Hematologic disorders including coagulopathies. [41, 42]
15. Evidence of coronary artery disease or high risk for coronary artery disease. [33 - 35]
16. Atrial septal defects. [39]
17. Significant valvular heart disease - isolated mitral valve prolapse is not disqualifying. [38]
18. Significant cardiac rhythm or conduction abnormalities. [36 - 37]
19. Implanted cardiac pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators (ICD). [39, 40]
20. Inadequate exercise tolerance. [34]
21. Severe hypertension. [35]
22. History of spontaneous or traumatic pneumothorax. [45]
23. Asthma. [42 - 44]
24. Chronic pulmonary disease, including radiographic evidence of pulmonary blebs, bullae or cysts.[45,46]
25. Diabetes mellitus. [46 - 47]
26. Pregnancy. [56]

### **SELECTED REFERENCES IN DIVING MEDICINE**

Most of these are available from Best Publishing Company, P.O. Box 30100, Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0100, the Divers Alert Network (DAN) or the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association (UHMS), Bethesda, MD.

DIVING MEDICINE, Second Edition, 1990. A. Bove and J. Davis. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia

DIVING AND SUBAQUATIC MEDICINE, Third Edition, 1992. C. Edmonds, C. Lowery and J. Pennefather. Butterworth-Heinemann Ltd. Oxford

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SPORT SCUBA DIVERS, 1998. Alfred Bove, M.D.,Ph.D. (ed.). Medical Seminars, Inc. San Antonio, TX

NOAA DIVING MANUAL, NOAA. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

U.S. NAVY DIVING MANUAL. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

<http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/medical/articles/index.asp>

Site contains articles on diving medicine from Alert Diver Magazine.