



The William Wilberforce Center

The I-693 Medical Examination

Subject: Important Information About Your Immigration Medical Examination (Form I-693)

As part of your application for lawful permanent residence (Green Card), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may require you to complete an immigration medical examination and submit **Form I-693, Report of Immigration Medical Examination and Vaccination Record**. This examination is used to determine whether you are admissible to the United States on public health grounds.

What's New? Important Update for Adjustment of Status Applicants

USCIS has recently changed its procedures regarding **Form I-693 (Medical Examination)** for applicants filing **Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status**.

Previously: Applicants could often file their Form I-485 first and submit the completed Form I-693 later, either at their interview or in response to a Request for Evidence (RFE).

Now: USCIS strongly encourages applicants to submit the completed Form I-693 **at the same time they file Form I-485**. Recently, failing to include the medical examination with the initial filing may result in processing delays or the issuance of an RFE, which can significantly extend the time it takes USCIS to adjudicate the case.

For this reason, if you are preparing to file an Adjustment of Status application, we recommend completing your immigration medical examination before your application is submitted so that Form I-693 can be included in the initial filing package whenever possible.

If your case has already been filed without a medical examination, do not schedule an exam until you have spoken with your attorney or case manager at The Wilberforce Center. We will advise you regarding the best timing for obtaining and submitting the Form I-693 based on the status of your case.

Please note: USCIS policies can change, and individual circumstances vary. If you have questions about whether your medical examination should be submitted with your application, please contact The Wilberforce Center for guidance.

Before Scheduling a Medical Exam

Please first determine whether you already have a completed Form I-693. If you have a copy, contact your attorney or case manager at The Wilberforce Center so we can review the form and determine whether it is still valid and acceptable for your case. If you have a sealed medical exam packet, **do not open it**, as opening the sealed envelope may invalidate the exam. You should also check with your resettlement agency to see if they have a copy of your medical examination records.

Finding an Authorized Doctor

The medical exam must be completed by a physician authorized by USCIS, known as a **civil surgeon**. You can locate an approved doctor in your area using the USCIS Civil Surgeon Locator:

<https://www.uscis.gov/tools/find-a-civil-surgeon>

If you are applying for permanent residence from within the United States, you must see a USCIS-designated civil surgeon. If you are applying from outside the United States, you must see a Department of State-authorized panel physician.

When selecting a doctor, be sure to ask:

- The cost of the exam
- Appointment availability
- Whether they accept your health insurance

Cost of the Medical Exam

The cost varies by provider and location. Many applicants report paying between **\$100 and \$500**, with approximately **\$400** being typical. Please confirm the exact fee with the doctor's office when scheduling your appointment.

What to Bring to Your Appointment

Please bring the following items:

- Immunization or vaccination records
- Medical history records
- Copies of any prior chest X-rays (if applicable)
- A letter from your physician regarding ongoing medical conditions
- Government-issued photo identification (passport, driver's license, state ID, work permit, etc.)
- Payment for the medical exam
- Health insurance card (if accepted by the provider)

You should also bring the most current version of **Form I-693**. Complete your portion of the form before your appointment if possible, but **do not sign it until instructed by the civil surgeon**.

What Happens During the Exam?

During your immigration medical examination, the USCIS-designated civil surgeon will review your medical history, verify your vaccination records, and perform a comprehensive physical examination. The purpose of the exam is to determine whether you have any medical conditions that could affect your eligibility for adjustment of status or admission to the United States under federal immigration laws.

The examination typically includes:

- **Review of Medical History:** The physician will ask about your past and current medical conditions, hospitalizations, surgeries, medications, mental health history, and any history of substance abuse or addiction.
- **Vaccination Assessment:** The physician will review your immunization records to determine whether you have received all vaccinations required by U.S. immigration law. If any required vaccines are missing, you may need to receive them during the examination or obtain a waiver if eligible.
- **Physical Examination:** The physician will conduct a general physical examination, including an assessment of your overall health, vital signs, and any current medical conditions.
- **Communicable Disease Screening:** The examination includes testing and screening for certain communicable diseases of public health significance, including:
 - Tuberculosis (TB)
 - Syphilis
 - Gonorrhea
- **Substance Abuse Evaluation:** The physician will evaluate whether there is any current drug abuse, drug addiction, or alcohol-related condition that may be relevant under immigration laws.
- **Mental Health Assessment:** The physician will assess whether you have any physical or mental health condition associated with behavior that may pose a threat to yourself, others, or property.

Additional Testing

Depending on your age, medical history, symptoms, vaccination records, or the results of the initial examination, the civil surgeon may require additional laboratory tests, diagnostic studies, specialist evaluations, or follow-up appointments before completing Form I-693.

After the Examination

Once all required testing and documentation have been completed, the civil surgeon will prepare and complete **Form I-693, Report of Immigration Medical Examination and Vaccination Record**. The completed form will be provided in a sealed envelope or transmitted electronically,

depending on current USCIS procedures. Do not open a sealed Form I-693 package, as USCIS may reject the submission if the seal is broken.

Most applicants complete the examination without issue, and many medical findings can be addressed through treatment, vaccination updates, or additional documentation when necessary.

After the Exam

Once the examination is completed:

1. Sign the form when instructed by the doctor.
2. The doctor will place the completed Form I-693 and supporting documentation into a sealed envelope.
3. **Do not open the sealed envelope.**
4. Request a copy of the completed exam for your personal records.
5. Bring or send the sealed, unopened envelope to The Wilberforce Center as instructed by your legal team.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to complete the medical exam before filing my Adjustment of Status application?

A: In most cases, yes. USCIS now prefers that Form I-693 be submitted together with Form I-485. Filing the medical exam with your initial application can help avoid delays and Requests for Evidence (RFEs). However, every case is different, so please consult with The Wilberforce Center before scheduling your exam.

Q: How long is the medical exam valid?

A: The validity of Form I-693 depends on USCIS rules in effect at the time of filing and adjudication. Because USCIS policies can change, please contact The Wilberforce Center if you have an older medical exam and want to know whether it is still valid for your case.

Q: I already had a medical exam overseas before entering the United States. Do I need another one?

A: Maybe not. Some applicants who completed an immigration medical examination abroad may not need a new Form I-693. Whether a new exam is required depends on several factors, including when the exam was completed and your immigration category. Please provide any copies of your prior medical examination records to The Wilberforce Center for review.

Q: What happens if I am missing some required vaccinations?

A: The Civil Surgeon will review your vaccination history and determine whether additional vaccinations are required. If you are missing required vaccines, the doctor may administer them or refer you to another provider before completing Form I-693.

Q: What if I cannot find my vaccination records?

A: If you cannot locate your vaccination records, inform the Civil Surgeon. The doctor may recommend blood tests to determine immunity or may require certain vaccinations to be repeated. Do not delay scheduling your appointment simply because you cannot find your records.

Q: Can my regular family doctor complete the immigration medical exam?

A: Only if your doctor is a USCIS-designated Civil Surgeon. Many family doctors are not authorized to complete Form I-693. Be sure to verify that the doctor is listed in the USCIS Civil Surgeon Locator before making an appointment.

Q: I live in one state but want to take my medical exam in another state. Is that allowed?

A: Yes. USCIS does not require you to use a Civil Surgeon in your state of residence. You may complete the exam anywhere in the United States as long as the physician is a USCIS-designated Civil Surgeon and properly completes Form I-693.

Q: Will USCIS deny my Green Card application if I have a medical condition?

A: Not necessarily. Most medical conditions do not affect eligibility for permanent residence. The purpose of the examination is to identify specific health-related grounds of inadmissibility established by immigration law. If the doctor identifies an issue, your attorney can discuss the implications with you.

Q: What if I test positive for tuberculosis (TB)?

A: A positive TB screening test does not automatically mean your application will be denied. Additional testing, such as a chest X-ray, may be required. The Civil Surgeon will explain any necessary follow-up steps.

Q: Can I open the sealed medical exam envelope?

A: No. Once the Civil Surgeon seals the completed Form I-693 package, do not open it. USCIS may reject the medical exam if the seal has been broken. Always keep the envelope sealed and provide it directly to The Wilberforce Center or USCIS as instructed.

Q: Should I keep a copy of my medical exam?

A: Yes. Before the envelope is sealed, ask the doctor's office for a copy of the completed medical examination and vaccination record for your personal files. This copy may be useful if questions arise later in the immigration process.

Q: What happens if USCIS sends me a Request for Evidence (RFE) for a medical exam?

A: If you receive an RFE requesting Form I-693, contact The Wilberforce Center immediately. We will review the request and provide instructions regarding scheduling the exam and submitting the completed medical packet to USCIS.

Q: What if I cannot afford the medical exam?

A: Unfortunately, USCIS does not provide fee waivers for immigration medical examinations. Costs vary among providers, so it may be worthwhile to contact several Civil Surgeons to compare prices before scheduling an appointment.

Q: How long does the medical exam appointment take?

A: Most appointments take between 30 minutes and 2 hours, depending on the provider and whether additional vaccinations, blood work, or follow-up testing are required.

Q: When should I contact The Wilberforce Center about my medical exam?

A: Contact us if:

- You already have a prior Form I-693 and are unsure whether it is still valid.
- You completed a medical exam overseas.
- You receive a Request for Evidence from USCIS.
- You have questions about vaccinations or required documents.
- You are unsure when to schedule your exam.

We are happy to help ensure your medical examination is completed correctly and submitted at the appropriate stage of your immigration case.

Other Questions?

If you have questions about whether you need a medical examination, whether a prior examination is still valid, or how to schedule an appointment, please contact The Wilberforce Center. We are happy to assist you throughout this process.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to assisting you with your immigration case.

Sincerely,

The Wilberforce Center
Immigration Legal Services Team

This letter is intended to provide general guidance regarding immigration medical examinations and Form I-693 requirements. Individual circumstances may vary.