Balancing Patient Confidentiality and Protection of Public Safety

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Is the issue unique for aviation?

• All safety critical professions share the same concerns
• Should be discussed broadly in society, not only aviation context
What is meant by patient confidentiality?

- Authority/European repository vs pilot?
- AME medical confidentiality?
  - Part Med
- Other doctors’ medical confidentiality?
  - National law & doctors ethics
  - MED.A.020
Authority/European repository vs pilot?

• **Licencing authority**
  • Medical certificate status?
  • Content of medical examination & medical history?
  • All the medical information?
  • De-identification?

• **European data repository**
  • What kind of data?
  • Who has the access?
  • What is the data used for?
  • Security
Acceptance by pilots

No uniform opinion & approach
- Current practises
- Different national / societal background
- Health care systems
- Trust in authority
Major concerns of European data repository

- **No personal medical data;** only information of the medical certificate status & previous AME
- **Only doctors** to have access to medical data
- **Only the ones who need, and when they need,** the data should have access
  - A separate PIN code from the pilot at the medical
- **De-identification** of the data in the repository
  - A separate code for each pilot
Major concerns of European data repository

- **Is checking the repository mandatory before issuing the medical certificate?**
- **Connection / access problems?**
  - → New appointment, in worst case a period without medical?
- **Security issues**
‘Certificate shopping’

- How big is the issue?
- Are the rules made for just one or two bad apples?
- Proportionality?
‘Borderline’ cases

Need for second opinion,

- Currently the authority decides on most of the limitations in Class 1 medicals
- Could this be delegated to AeMC?
- Enough experience needed in decision making
Conclusions

- **Not an aviation specific issue.** All safety critical professions share the same concerns.
- A broad national / societal discussion is needed.
- Is ‘certificate shopping’ indeed wide-spread?
- Data-repository raises major concerns that must be addressed.