



Frequently Asked Questions - Auxiliarist Support to Coast Guard Health Services

Overview

Auxiliarists may be eligible to provide support to CG Health Services if they live nearby a CG Clinic, Sickbay or CG SAR station. Auxiliarist participation expands the health services capabilities of Coast Guard Clinics/Sickbays by enabling them to augment patient care within existing funding resources and restrictions.

The CG may utilize Auxiliarist support from certain primary care health care providers (defined by the CG as physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants) and certain other allied health care professionals. The following are authorized missions:

1. Support Coast Guard Medical Clinics and Sickbays
2. Support Coast Guard SAR stations for on-the-water Emergency Medical Services
3. Teach CPR/AED/First Aid to active duty and reserve personnel and Auxiliary members. These members should also be qualified as Auxiliary Instructors.

Emergency Medical Technicians may be authorized to provide on-the-water EMS support on Auxiliary or CG vessels. In addition, if certified Instructors, Auxiliarists may provide first aid, CPR and AED training at CG stations or Auxiliary meetings or classes.

How did the program get started?

The Coast Guard recognized that the Auxiliary is composed of skilled volunteers, some of whom are already trained, qualified, licensed or registered to perform some of the same health care activities as performed by the active duty CG personnel.

Specific authority for the program was initially published on January 21, 2003. The most recent Instruction is published as COMDTINST 6010.2 (series).

Who can participate in the program?

You must be an Auxiliarist to participate. Examples of health care providers (HCPs) who are eligible include physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certain other allied health care professionals such as Registered Nurses, Emergency Medical Technicians and First Aid/CPR/AED instructors.

Must I have CPR certification to participate, and what level must it be?

All health care providers who desire to participate in the program must be currently certified to a minimum Basic Life Support (BLS) level equivalent to the American Heart Association level of "Healthcare Provider."

What are the requirements for professional providers to participate?

They must follow the instructions in COMDTINST 6010.2 (series), which may include submitting documentation of licenses, training, and certain additional information. Their professional qualifications will be verified in the same manner as if applying for hospital privileges and follows procedures identical with that in effect for their Active Duty medical/dental officer counterparts.

In addition, Auxiliarist HCPs will usually be required to submit a Direct Operational PSI if volunteering in CG Clinics or Sickbays.

What tasks can I do in this program?

Auxiliarists may apply to perform tasks for which they are already certified or licensed. If the Coast Guard can utilize those designated tasks, the Auxiliarist may be authorized by the Commandant as per privileging guidelines already established in the Coast Guard Medical Manual.

Credentialed Coast Guard Auxiliarist health care providers will only be placed at those clinics requesting need. Assignments will be coordinated between the Coast Guard Office of Health Services Work Life (HSWL) and the local Coast Guard clinic Manager or Senior Medical/Dental officer.

The Auxiliarist will have no command authority or responsibility, and shall at all times be responsible to a senior active duty physician or dentist at the assigned clinic.

How much time do I have to commit to the program?

Although volunteer hours are flexible, the Auxiliarist will be expected to provide an average of at least two (2) days duty per month, at a CG facility within 50 miles.

What reimbursements are Auxiliarist participants eligible for?

The program allows compensation for necessary travel and meals to those volunteers who are assigned to duty. If approved, this would be authorized and funded by the local clinic command.

Will I receive pay for participating in this program?

As a volunteer, you will receive no compensation for the services performed.

What about civil liability and malpractice coverage?

Auxiliarist HCPs will not be held individually liable for civil damages as long as the Auxiliarist, after making full disclosure to the Coast Guard of his or her professional background and medical or dental qualifications, is assigned duties and acts within the scope of those duties. Coast Guard Auxiliarist HCPs who act outside the scope of written authorization (as defined by Request of Clinical Privileges (CG-5575, CG-5575A, and CG- 5575B) may be subject to civil liability.

Where can I get more detailed information and application materials?

Auxiliarists can access detailed program guidelines from the COMDTINST 6010.2 available online at our AUXMED web site here:

<http://hdept.cgaux.org/healthservices.html>

Or contact your Auxiliarist Support to CG Health Services Staff member:

Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants and Registered Nurses

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