



5

years

OF SUCCESS WITH

BasicMed



AOPA™

your freedom to fly



Dear Aviation Community,

For many years, pilots endured unnecessary and undue hurdles, delays and barriers to medical certification. This burden was keeping safe pilots from flying and discouraging others who were simply abandoning their passion. This lack of growth was directly endangering the tremendous revenue general aviation pumps into local economies.

The result of the decades-long push for long-overdue reform effort is now known as BasicMed. These reforms have cut unnecessary red tape and cost for pilots.

BasicMed is delivering on its promise: keeping pilots safe, educated, engaged – and flying. Because of this foresight, more than 66,000 pilots have successfully qualified to fly under BasicMed. Pilots, instructors, the FAA, Congress and other key stakeholders continue to praise BasicMed, and other countries have authorized U.S. pilots with a BasicMed certification to fly in their airspace.

The U.S. airspace system has never been safer. Accident rates have never been lower. Pilots have never been more educated about safety. In short, BasicMed is the embodiment of the FAA’s mission to “provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world.”

Right up there with GPS, ADS-B and in-cockpit weather, BasicMed stands as an innovation that continues to keep our airspace the safest in the world. BasicMed has made obtaining a medical certification more convenient and more economical - keeping thousands of capable pilots flying safely.

Blue skies,

Mark Baker

President & CEO

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association



What is BasicMed?

On July 15, 2016, Congress passed what would be known as BasicMed, an alternative pathway to medical qualification and the result of a decades-long push for medical reform by AOPA and the GA community.

Pilots electing to fly with BasicMed can work with a state licensed physician, or an aviation medical examiner, to go through a medical exam using an FAA approved checklist every four years and take a comprehensive online medical education course every two years.

Like other medical certificates, BasicMed has limitations: five passengers plus the pilot-in-command, maximum takeoff weight of 6,000 pounds, up to 250 knots indicated airspeed, and up to 18,000 feet MSL.

Mexico and The Bahamas have embraced this reform and allow U.S. GA pilots flying under BasicMed to enter their airspaces and land at their airports. The general aviation community is actively working to expand the acceptance of these reforms.

BasicMed has been praised by the general aviation world as being safe, efficient, educational, and engaging.

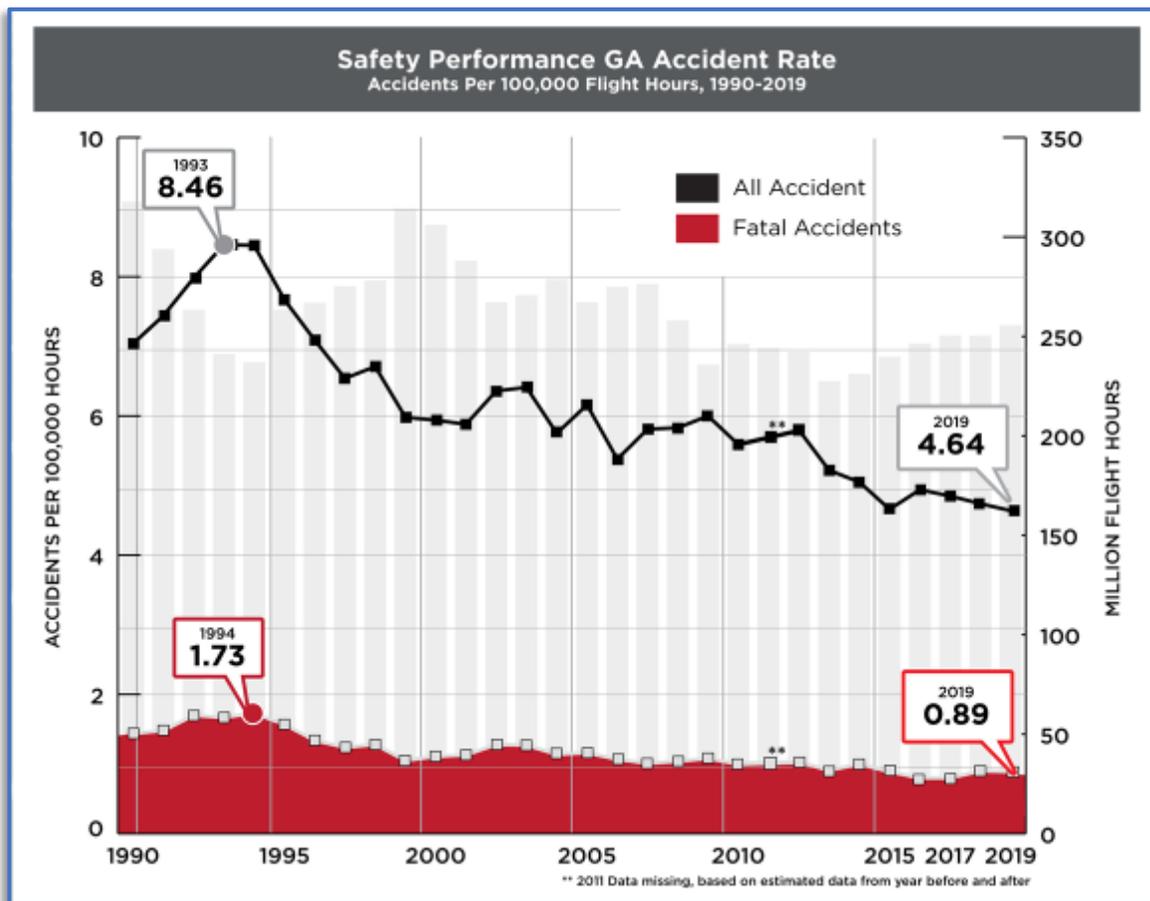
“On the five-year anniversary of BasicMed, it’s clear that this reform has been a win for the aviation community – substantially growing the number of active pilots. Not only has it proven to be both an effective and safe medical certification process for over 66,000 general aviation pilots, it has increased the knowledge and awareness of various medical conditions for all pilots while minimizing needless red tape, helping more pilots fly safely.”

— SENATOR JIM INHOFE



BasicMed and Safety

An Air Safety Institute report that analyzed NTSB data found the GA accident rate to be at its lowest level in decades, continuing to drop every year since the 1990s. The general aviation community has never had a stronger focus on safety, and the FAA continues to make the U.S. airspace the safest in the world.



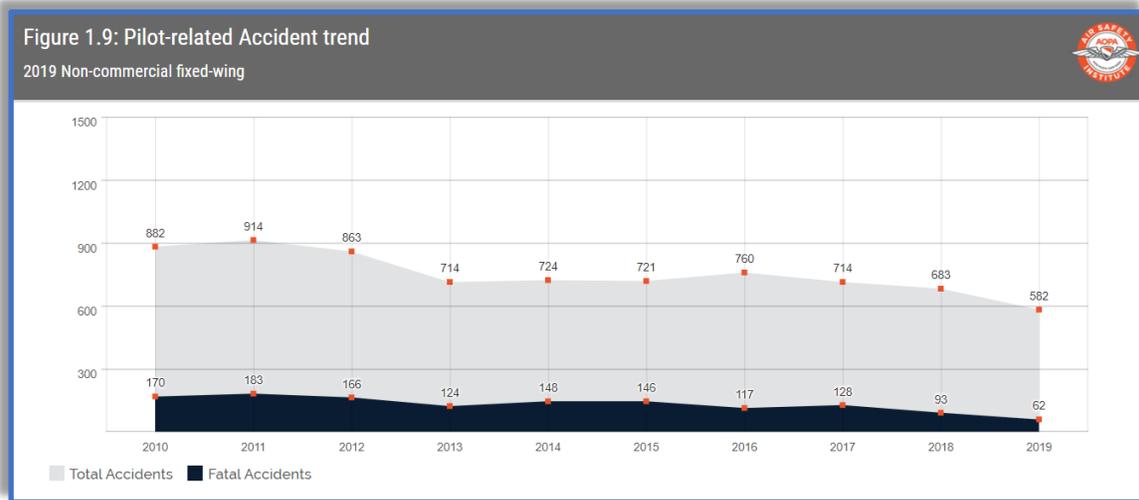
SOURCE: AOPA AIR SAFETY INSTITUTE/NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD



BasicMed and Safety

The trend of accidents attributed to pilot error continues to decline (as seen in the below chart reflecting data from the Air Safety Institute Nall Report).

With the amount of safety, instructional information and resources available, pilots are more educated and more accountable. Safe pilots and a safe airspace is a combination that will continue to result in stronger safety numbers.



SOURCE: THE 31ST JOSEPH T. NALL REPORT, AOPA AIR SAFETY INSTITUTE



BasicMed and Safety

According to National Transportation Safety Board accident investigation reports, over the period 2017-2019, there were 10 fatal accidents in the U.S. involving all classes of medicals where the primary cause was medical incapacitation.

The FAA estimated over 76 million flight hours during this same period, highlighting the rare likelihood of a medical event accident when compared to activity.

MEDICAL EVENTS

**Accidents specifically caused by a medical incapacitation, by medical class
More than 76 million flight hours over the same period**

Year	Unknown	BasicMed	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Sport
2017		2	1	1		1
2018	1			1	1	
2019				1	1	
2020	2					

SOURCE: AOPA AIR SAFETY INSTITUTE/NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

The FAA's Office of Aerospace Medicine issued a report that suggested general aviation has maintained a high level of safety under BasicMed:

“This study could not detect a significant overall difference in aviation safety outcomes, such as accident rates between BasicMed pilots and pilots holding third-class medical certificates.”

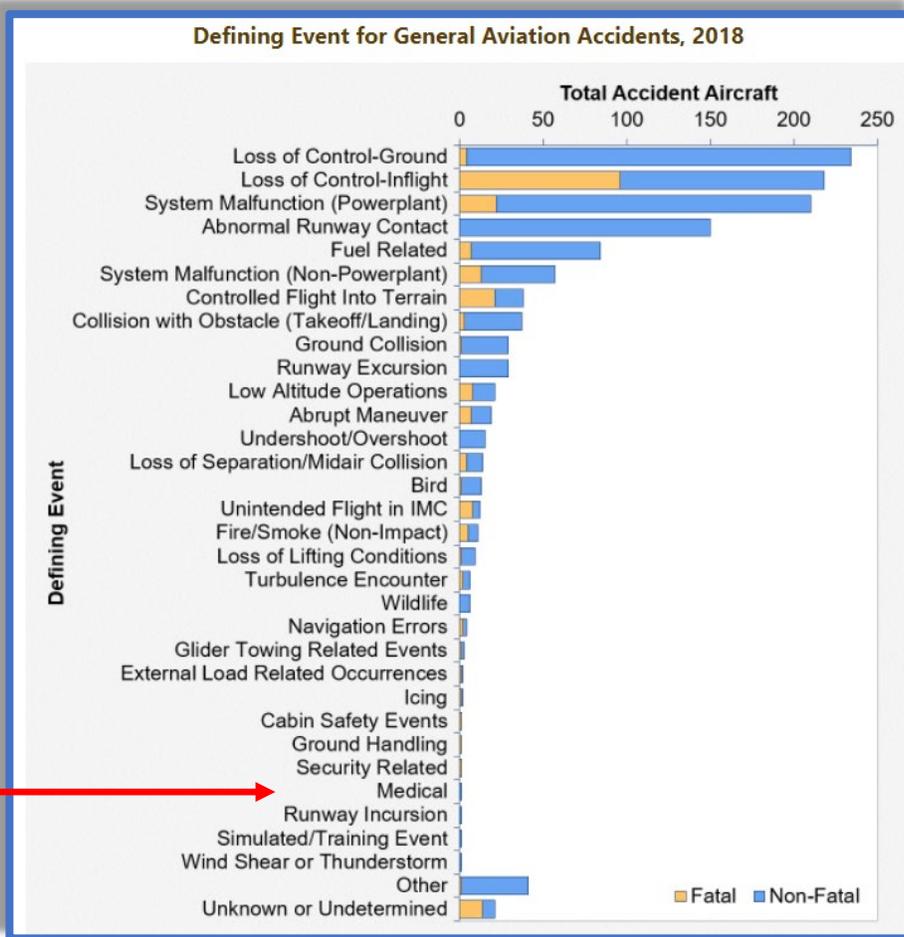
— ESTIMATED ACCIDENT RISK FOR BASICMED VS. MEDICALLY CERTIFIED U.S. PILOTS, FAA, JUNE



BasicMed and Safety

It is important to note that medical incapacitation is a rare cause of any aviation accident.

The following chart from a recent NTSB report lists more than 30 factors attributed to be the primary cause of general aviation accidents.



SOURCE: 2018 NTSB US CIVIL AVIATION ACCIDENT STATISTICS



BasicMed and the Certification Process

BasicMed has provided pilots and physicians with a very comprehensive, yet straightforward and efficient, medical certification process.

BasicMed: An Efficient Process	
STEP 1	Start with 1 st , 2 nd or 3 rd Class Medical
STEP 2	Comply with pilot licensing requirements
STEP 3	Complete BasicMed online medical education course (offered by AOPA)
STEP 4	Exam from state-licensed physician or Aviation Medical Examiner, using FAA-approved Comprehensive Medical Examination Chart Pilots with specific heart, neurological, or psychological conditions must be evaluated by the FAA
STEP 5	GO FLY!



BasicMed: Embraced by Key Stakeholders

Pilots, physicians, regulators, and other stakeholders have welcomed the increased efficiency of the medical certification process. Increasing efficiency and cutting down on delays and hurdles has been praised by all corners of general aviation.

By the FAA

“The new rule represents what should be a familiar approach to the FAA’s rules: that flight safety is an inherent, personal responsibility that belongs to each flight crewmember.”

JOHN DUNCAN

Former Director, Flight Service Standards, FAA Safety Briefing 2015

By the Medical Community

“BasicMed works because it enables an important medical relationship between the pilot and the pilot’s treating physician. Fitness to fly decisions can be made with confidence in concert with the pilot and the treating physician who is aware of the pilot’s complete medical history.”

DR. BRENT BLUE

Senior FAA Aviation, Medical Examiner 2021



BasicMed: Creating Accountable Pilots

With BasicMed, we have a more engaged GA community without having to go through a sometimes bureaucratic and costly process.

Through the online BasicMed educational courses, guided compliance process and educational material, it's no wonder so many pilots have chosen BasicMed as their path to medical self-assessment.

Under BasicMed, pilots continue to fly with self-responsibility.

“The privilege of flying is very important to me and the way the course goes over the situations of physical, mental, and emotional health we deal with every day really opened my eyes to how important it is to self-assess myself before I ever think about being PIC. **This course has changed me in how I think about my health and how important it is for me to be the best pilot I can be.**”

“I was ready to give up and sell my plane. This new process means **I'll keep flying.**”

“**Someone did their homework** on the material and concept. I think **it is a win-win** for all concerned.”



BasicMed is Educational

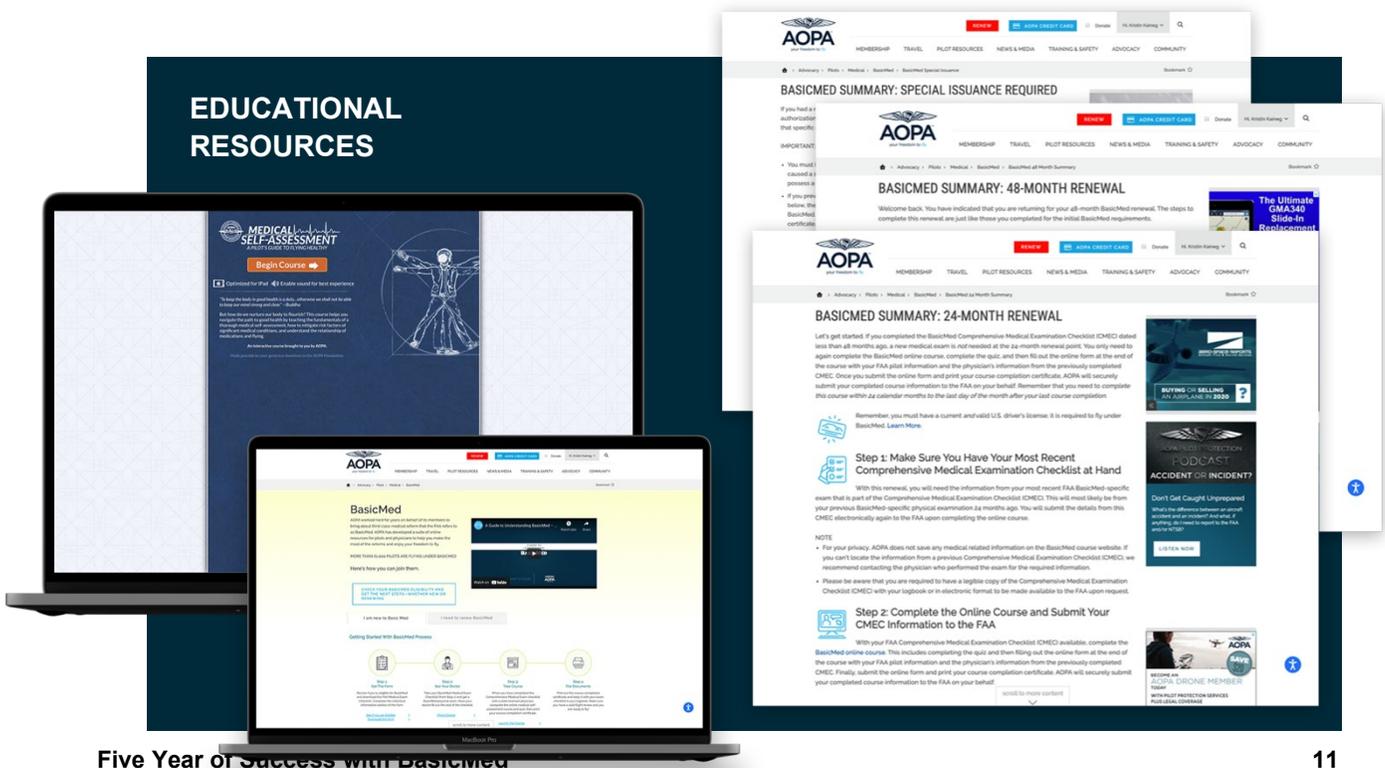
One of the foundations of BasicMed is education: creating more knowledgeable and engaged pilots.

AOPA provides a wealth of information and resources for pilots at any stage of the BasicMed application or compliance process:

- Eligibility and application tools
- Downloadable FAA forms
- Locating an appropriate doctor, and the required Comprehensive Medical Exam Checklist for that visit
- Filing appropriate documents

AOPA also administers the online medical education course that pilots flying under BasicMed are required to take every 24 months. The course covers such topics as health self-assessment, when to see a doctor, conditions that may require a closer look, and how to use diet and exercise to stay sharp for the flight deck.

In addition, AOPA provides aviators with engaging and informative videos about BasicMed and all steps, as well as helpful FAQs for pilots and physicians.



Five Year of Success with BasicMed



A Transformational Five Years

“With over 60,000 general aviation pilots qualifying for BasicMed, the program as envisioned has been a huge success. More important, the reforms passed by Congress five years ago will keep America’s GA community safe and strong for years to come.”

— REPRESENTATIVE SAM GRAVES

BasicMed

HOURS OF
EDUCATIONAL
VIDEO AND WEB
CONTENT

5

PRIVATE AND PRODUCTIVE
PHYSICIAN DISCUSSIONS

PILOTS
HAVE
BECOME
ENGAGED,
EDUCATED,
AND SAFER

MORE THAN
66,000
QUALIFIED
PILOTS

YEARS

UNPARALLELED
AVIATION SAFETY