

Obtaining an Immigration Medical Exam (also known as a Civil Surgeon’s Exam)

What is the Immigration Medical Exam?

Anyone applying to adjust their status to become a Legal Permanent Resident must undergo a medical examination to ensure they are not inadmissible to the U.S. on public health grounds.

The medical examination cannot be conducted by a regular doctor; applicants must go to a “Civil Surgeon” (a doctor who has received special training about immigration issues and who has been qualified by immigration authorities to perform the immigration medical exam). The civil surgeon exams are NOT covered by Medi-Cal.

Your client will need to show proof that they have all of the required vaccinations. They must bring a copy of their vaccination record to the medical exam appointment. If the client was detained by immigration, they should have gotten a copy of this from the shelter when they were released. Health care providers can also quickly request immunization records from ORR—see this link for more information: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services>

If some of the required immunizations are missing (which is the case for most, even if they were detained), in most cases clients should go to their regular doctor or clinic to get those done, as it will generally be cheaper than having them done by the civil surgeon (and might even be free). See below for more information.

Where are the exams done?

Any Civil Surgeon can conduct the exam, and you can find a list of providers here: <https://my.uscis.gov/findadoctor>

However, LSC clients (including those with a pro bono attorney) are eligible for a discount at 2 locations, one in Oakland and one in San Francisco, and there is also a free/low-cost option for clients who are 18 or older. If there is an LSC social worker assisting the client, please check in with them before scheduling the exam, as they can assist the client with the entire process.

➤ The clinics that offer discounts to LSC clients are:

Cortes Clinic

2700 International Boulevard, Suite 35
Oakland, CA 94601
510-532-1070
cortesclinic.com

Cost for LSC clients (as of September 2015): \$100 (medical exam only, required immunizations/tests* are at an additional cost)

Meridian Medical Group

2460 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
415-642-8449
<http://www.meridianmedicalgroup.org/>

Cost for LSC clients (as of September 2015): \$125 (medical exam only, required immunizations/tests* are at an additional cost). **NOTE: Clients must provide a letter from LSC to receive this discount, ask the LSC social worker or mentor attorney about this**

*the cost of the required immunizations and tests can often be avoided by getting them all done at a community clinic or the place where your client usually receives health care services. See below for information on which immunizations and tests are required.

➤ For some adult clients, there is a free/low-cost option:

Clinic By the Bay

4877 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112

415-405-0222

www.clinicbythebay.org

- **Must be 18+**
- **Must be a resident of San Francisco or San Mateo County**
- **Must be uninsured**

These exams are provided **free** (with a suggested donation of \$20 to \$40). Clinic patients can also receive immunizations at the clinic free of charge.

Please contact the assigned LSC social worker for assistance in scheduling an appointment with Clinic By the Bay. If there is no assigned social worker, please ask your mentor attorney to put you in touch with an LSC social worker for assistance.

What do clients need to bring to their appointment?:

-Immigration Form I-693 with Part 1 filled out. If using an interpreter, that person must fill out Part 2. The form can be found here: <http://www.uscis.gov/i-693>

-Photo Identification with ID number (examples: passport, Employment Authorization Document, school ID, state ID, consular ID, Office of Refugee Resettlement Release Document)

-Immunization Records, TB test results. If the client's TB test result is positive, they will also need a blood test called Quantiferon and/or X-Rays and medication with a doctor's letter about the medication, dose and length of treatment.

Required immunizations:

For infants and children under age 7:

In English: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf>

In Spanish: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs-sp.pdf>

For children and adolescents aged 7-18:

In English: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/downloads/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs-sp.pdf>

[In Spanish: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/downloads/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs-sp.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/downloads/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs-sp.pdf)

For adults aged 19+:

In English: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-schedule-easy-read.pdf>

[In Spanish: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-schedule-easy-read-sp.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/adult/adult-schedule-easy-read-sp.pdf)

Then What?

Once your client has completed their medical examination, including all of the required immunizations and tests, the Civil Surgeon's office will prepare a report. They will provide you or your client with one copy of the report in a sealed envelope which you will send to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (or bring to the client's Adjustment of Status interview, if you already filed the I-485 and are waiting for an interview), and one unsealed envelope for you and your client to review. Make sure your client signs the I-693 form at the time of their exam (but not before) if they will not be returning to pick up the report. If they will be picking up the report, be sure they know to NOT OPEN the sealed envelope.