

medical exam fee for green card

medical exam fee for green card is an essential consideration for applicants navigating the United States immigration process. Obtaining a green card requires undergoing a medical examination conducted by a USCIS-approved civil surgeon to ensure that applicants meet health standards and do not pose a public health risk. The medical exam fee for green card applicants can vary significantly depending on location, physician fees, and additional required tests or vaccinations. This article explores the factors influencing the medical exam fee for green card applicants, the components of the examination, and tips to manage costs effectively. Additionally, it outlines the importance of the medical exam in the overall application process and what to expect during the examination. Understanding these details helps applicants prepare financially and avoid delays in their green card processing.

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Understanding the Medical Exam Requirement for Green Card

The medical exam is a mandatory step in the green card application process administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The purpose of the exam is to ensure that the applicant does not have any health conditions that could pose a risk to public health or safety. All applicants must be examined by a USCIS-designated civil surgeon, who will evaluate the applicant's medical history, perform a physical examination, and conduct necessary laboratory tests. The medical evaluation includes screening for communicable diseases, vaccination status, and mental health conditions.

Who Must Take the Medical Exam?

Applicants applying for adjustment of status to permanent residence within the United States or those undergoing consular processing abroad must complete the medical exam. This requirement applies to most green card categories, including family-sponsored, employment-based, refugee, and asylum applicants. Children accompanied by their parents are also subject to the medical exam requirement. Exceptions are rare and usually involve specific humanitarian or waiver cases.

Approved Medical Providers

USCIS designates certain civil surgeons authorized to perform the medical examination for green card applicants. It is crucial to select an approved provider because the exam results must be submitted on Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, which only authorized civil surgeons can complete. Using an unauthorized physician can result in delays or rejection of the medical exam portion of the application.

Breakdown of the Medical Exam Fee for Green Card

The medical exam fee for green card applicants typically encompasses several components. While the

base fee covers the physical examination and review of medical history, several additional costs often contribute to the total amount charged. These costs can vary widely based on geographic location, provider fees, and the specific tests required.

Components Included in the Medical Exam Fee

- **Physical Examination:** A comprehensive check-up including vital signs, physical assessment, and review of medical history.
- **Laboratory Tests:** Mandatory tests such as tuberculosis (TB) screening, blood tests for syphilis, and other communicable diseases.
- **Vaccinations:** Required immunizations based on CDC guidelines and applicant's age and vaccination history.
- **Medical Report Preparation:** Completion of Form I-693 by the civil surgeon documenting the medical exam results and vaccination record.

Average Costs

The total medical exam fee for green card applicants generally ranges between \$200 and \$500. In some metropolitan areas or with highly specialized providers, fees may be higher. Applicants should budget accordingly and inquire about all potential charges before scheduling their exam. It is important to note that the fee paid directly to the civil surgeon typically does not include USCIS filing fees, which are separate expenses.

Factors Influencing the Cost of the Medical Exam

Several factors contribute to the variability in the medical exam fee for green card applicants.

Understanding these elements can help applicants anticipate and manage their expenses more effectively.

Geographic Location

Medical exam fees vary significantly by region. Urban areas with higher costs of living often charge more for services than rural locations. Additionally, certain states may have more competitive pricing due to a higher number of USCIS-designated civil surgeons.

Provider Experience and Reputation

Civil surgeons with extensive experience or specialized credentials might charge premium fees. While higher fees do not always guarantee better service, applicants may choose providers based on reputation, convenience, or additional support services offered during the exam.

Required Additional Tests or Vaccinations

The applicant's age, medical history, and vaccination record influence the number of tests and immunizations required. Some applicants may need multiple vaccines or additional blood tests, which increases the overall cost of the exam.

Insurance Coverage

Most health insurance plans do not cover the immigration medical exam fee because it is considered a specialized service. Applicants without insurance should prepare to pay the full cost out-of-pocket.

Additional Medical Tests and Vaccinations

Beyond the initial physical examination, green card applicants must complete certain medical tests and receive vaccinations according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

Mandatory Medical Tests

The medical exam specifically screens for the following conditions:

- **Tuberculosis (TB):** Applicants aged 2 years and older undergo a TB test, either a skin test or an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test.
- **Syphilis:** Blood tests are conducted to detect syphilis in applicants aged 15 and older.
- **Gonorrhea:** Testing is required for applicants at risk based on age and sexual history.
- **Other Communicable Diseases:** Screening for diseases such as leprosy and other conditions that may affect admissibility.

Required Vaccinations

Green card applicants must be up to date on vaccinations recommended by the CDC, which may include:

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids

- Influenza (seasonally required)
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis A and B
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Pertussis

Applicants who lack documentation of previous vaccinations or immunity will be required to receive these immunizations, which can add to the medical exam fee.

Tips to Manage and Prepare for Medical Exam Expenses

Proper preparation and awareness can help applicants control costs related to the green card medical exam. Planning ahead minimizes unexpected expenses and ensures a smoother application process.

Research and Compare Civil Surgeon Fees

Contact multiple USCIS-designated civil surgeons in your area to inquire about their fees. Comparing prices, services offered, and patient reviews helps select a provider that fits budget and quality requirements.

Gather Medical and Vaccination Records in Advance

Providing complete medical history and vaccination documentation may reduce the need for additional tests or repeat vaccinations, lowering the overall cost.

Ask About Payment Options

Some civil surgeons offer payment plans or accept various payment methods. Clarifying these options beforehand can aid in financial planning.

Schedule the Exam Early

Allowing sufficient time before the green card interview or application deadline prevents urgent scheduling, which can sometimes incur higher fees.

Importance of the Medical Exam in Green Card Processing

The medical exam is a critical component of the green card application process, directly impacting eligibility and processing times. Failure to complete the exam or provide a valid medical report can result in delays or denial of the application.

USCIS Health-Related Grounds for Inadmissibility

USCIS uses the medical examination to determine if applicants have certain health conditions that may render them inadmissible. These include communicable diseases of public health significance, lack of required vaccinations, physical or mental disorders associated with harmful behavior, and drug abuse or addiction. Addressing these issues promptly during the exam can prevent complications.

Medical Exam Validity Period

The medical examination report is generally valid for two years from the date of examination.

Applicants should plan the timing of their medical exam accordingly to ensure the report remains valid throughout the green card application process.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the typical cost of a medical exam for a green card application?

The cost of a medical exam for a green card application typically ranges from \$200 to \$500, depending on the physician and location.

Are medical exam fees for a green card refundable?

No, medical exam fees for a green card are generally non-refundable, even if the application is denied.

Who is authorized to perform the medical exam for a green card?

Only USCIS-designated civil surgeons are authorized to perform the medical exam required for a green card application.

Does the medical exam fee include vaccination costs for the green card process?

The medical exam fee usually does not include vaccination costs; any required vaccines must be paid for separately by the applicant.

Can the medical exam fee vary by state or city?

Yes, the medical exam fee can vary significantly depending on the state, city, and the specific civil surgeon's pricing.

Is the medical exam fee covered by insurance for green card applicants?

Most health insurance plans do not cover the medical exam for a green card, so applicants generally

pay out-of-pocket.

When should the medical exam be scheduled during the green card application process?

It is recommended to schedule the medical exam close to the time of submitting your green card application, as the exam results are valid for only one year.

What forms of payment are accepted for the green card medical exam fee?

Payment methods vary by provider but commonly include cash, credit cards, and sometimes checks; it is best to confirm with the civil surgeon ahead of time.

Are there any additional fees associated with the green card medical exam?

Additional fees may include charges for chest X-rays, lab tests, and vaccinations, depending on the applicant's health and vaccination history.

Additional Resources

1. Understanding Medical Exam Fees for Green Card Applicants

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the medical examination process required for green card applicants, focusing on the associated fees. It explains the factors that influence the cost, such as location and specific medical tests. Readers will learn how to budget and prepare financially for the medical exam as part of their immigration journey.

2. The Complete Guide to Green Card Medical Exams and Costs

A detailed guide that walks applicants through the entire medical exam procedure, including a breakdown of typical fees. It covers common questions about what the exam entails and how fees vary

by provider and region. This book is an essential resource for those seeking clarity on the financial aspects of green card medical exams.

3. Navigating Medical Exam Requirements and Fees for Immigration

This title delves into the legal and practical requirements of medical exams for U.S. immigration, highlighting the fee structures involved. It offers tips on finding authorized physicians and understanding what is included in the exam costs. The book aims to demystify the medical exam process for prospective green card holders.

4. Medical Examination Costs in the Green Card Application Process

Focused on the financial side of the green card medical exam, this book breaks down typical expenses and how applicants can manage them. It also discusses insurance considerations and potential additional costs for follow-up tests or vaccinations. A helpful resource for budgeting and financial planning during immigration.

5. A Practical Handbook for Green Card Medical Exams and Fees

This practical handbook is designed to help applicants prepare for the medical exam, with an emphasis on understanding and managing fees. It includes checklists, sample fee schedules, and advice on communicating with panel physicians. The book is ideal for those who want a step-by-step approach to the medical exam process.

6. Cost Analysis of Medical Exams for U.S. Permanent Residency

An analytical look at the various costs associated with medical exams for green card applicants, comparing prices across states and providers. The book also examines trends in fee changes and offers strategies for minimizing expenses. It is geared toward applicants and immigration professionals alike.

7. Green Card Medical Exam Fees: What to Expect and How to Prepare

This guide prepares applicants for the medical exam fees they will encounter, explaining typical charges and what services are included. It provides practical advice on budgeting and finding cost-effective options without compromising exam quality. Readers will gain confidence in handling the

financial aspects of their medical exam.

8. *The Immigrant's Guide to Medical Exam Fees and Procedures*

A user-friendly guide that covers the medical exam procedures required for immigration and the associated fees. It explains common medical requirements and how fees are calculated, helping immigrants avoid surprises. The book also includes personal stories and tips from former applicants.

9. *Medical Exam Fees and Financial Planning for Green Card Seekers*

This title focuses on financial planning strategies for covering the medical exam fees in the green card application process. It discusses payment options, potential financial assistance, and how to anticipate additional medical costs. The book is a valuable tool for applicants aiming to manage their immigration expenses effectively.

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