

Questions about Medical Standards

My BMI is over 27.5 but I am very muscular. Can I still pass?

Please refer to the information on the fitness tab.

You must meet this standard at the time of Fitness Testing and maintain this standard throughout the selection process and recruit training.

I had a childhood fracture/sprain etc. Do I need an Orthopaedic Report?

Generally, no. If you have a deformity or impairment of function as a result of your injury, your assessing doctor will help to determine if this is required. Your GP may wish to provide a report about any minor injuries to help progress your application.

I had a shoulder dislocation/ knee reconstruction/back surgery. Can I apply?

Yes, but all major Orthopaedic injuries will require an Orthopaedic Specialist report and clearance of your medical condition is not guaranteed.

I have low back pain. Can I apply?

Yes. But you may require an Orthopaedic Specialist report and clearance is not guaranteed.

I had childhood asthma. Do I need a report from a Respiratory Specialist?

Not necessarily. If you had childhood asthma and have required no treatment for a number of years a GP report will suffice. You will still need to undergo a Bronchial Provocation Test that your GP can organise. We will require a copy of these results. Should these results be abnormal you will need a specialist report.

I take medication for asthma. Can I apply?

Yes. If your asthma is well-controlled on medication you can still clear your medical. You will require a report from a Respiratory Specialist and a Bronchial Provocation Test which your specialist or family doctor can organise. Your clearance would then be conditional on you continuing with your Asthma Management plan.

Where can the additional tests e.g. for asthma be done?

It is recommended that your GP organises any further investigations and specialist reports that are required as they will be responsible for your ongoing management of the condition identified in that report.

I have Diabetes. Can I apply?

Yes. However, you will need a report from your treating Endocrinologist. As a Police Officer, the Inherent requirements include that you may not have access to food, water or medications for up to 12 hours at a time, therefore you will need to demonstrate that your condition is stable and

medically well managed. This Specialist review will need to include information explaining that you do not suffer from hypoglycaemic episodes, and that your HBA1C is within the Diabetes Australia guidelines. You should discuss this with your family doctor.

I have a mental health issue, can I apply?

Yes you can. You will need to provide reports from your GP, Psychiatrist and/or Psychologist. You may be required to undergo further assessment. Mental health issues are assessed on an individual basis and clearance of your medical is not guaranteed.

I have Epilepsy. Can I apply?

Yes. However, Victoria Police medical standards for epilepsy are the same as those required for commercial vehicle drivers. You will need a report from your treating Neurologist confirming that your condition is stable and that you have not had a seizure in the last ten years. Your clearance will be conditional on your adherence to your treatment regime.

I have Crohn's Disease/Ulcerative Colitis. Can I apply?

Yes. Each case will be assessed individually based on reports from your treating specialist to determine if you are medically suitable. At present colostomies and ileostomies are not considered suitable.

I am over forty years of age and I take medication for my cholesterol. Can I apply?

Yes, but all applicants who are over 40 years of age, or have a history of heart troubles will need to have tests done to assess heart disease risk. These include blood tests and ECG which can be organised by your family doctor. If your level of risk is elevated, or you have a heart condition, further investigations and specialist reports may be required.

What is required for Hepatitis B Vaccination?

As part of the application process, documentation is required to state that you have either commenced the Hep B vaccination process or have you have immunity to Hepatitis B.

The standard Hep B vaccination schedule usually consists of 3 injections. It is the responsibility of the applicant to follow and complete the immunisation schedule.

In order to prove immunity, a blood test result is required to show that your Hep B sAb levels are greater than 10. This test is usually done at least 1 month after the last scheduled injection.

If you have a low level of immunity, you may require a booster injection followed by another blood test. This process is arranged through your treating GP.

I take warfarin tablets to thin my blood. Can I apply?

Generally ,no. Police medical standards do not permit blood thinning medications such as Warfarin and Clexane. You may apply once you have completed treatment and no longer require this medication. Aspirin is permitted.

I am colour blind. Can I apply?

Yes. However, the Inherent requirements of Operational General Police duties requires the ability to name and identify the colours of vehicles and clothing. As there are different types of colour deficiency, each case will be evaluated individually based upon the type of colour deficiency. If a colour deficiency is identified by your Optometrist or Ophthalmologist, a screen based practical colour test may be required during the medical stage of the application process. Clearance is not guaranteed.

I wear glasses. Can I apply?

Yes, but your vision must meet certain minimum standards. Unaided visual acuity, if due to a refractive error, must be at least 6/36 (without error) in the worse eye and at least 6/18 (without error) in the better eye. Corrected distance vision of at least 6/9 in either eye and 6/6 when both eyes are used together.

Do I have to buy polycarbonate glasses even though I don't know whether I have cleared or not?

You do not need to purchase polycarbonate glasses until you have received the final Letter of Offer from Recruitment to enter Academy Training.

Can I get laser eye surgery to correct my vision?

Yes, however undergoing laser eye surgery is a personal health decision. If you do not currently meet the medical standards and you elect to have laser eye surgery in the future, your application may be cancelled. You may reapply when you have met the Police medical vision requirements. Each situation will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Medical clearance is not guaranteed.

If I do not meet the medical standards, can my application be deferred until I do?

If the Police Medical Officer has assessed your medical booklet, and you are not medically suitable within 3 months of your medical assessment, your application may be cancelled. You will be advised if you are eligible to reapply. If you are eligible, you will be required to submit the "Preliminary Enquiry of Medical Condition Form" prior to submitting your new application.

Any other medical questions?

If you have any concerns about a pre-existing medical condition, complete a

PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY OF MEDICAL CONDITION FORM

The form can be downloaded from the Victoria Police Careers webpage.

<https://www.policecareer.vic.gov.au/police/forms-police>

This completed form should be faxed to 03 9247 3067 OR emailed to: Recruit-medicalenquiries-mgr@police.vic.gov.au