

EXAMINATION STANDARDS*

As a part of the ministry application process, The United Methodist Church requires each candidate to “present a satisfactory certificate of good health” by a physician on the prescribed form. Disabilities are not to be construed as unfavorable health factors when a person with disability is capable of meeting the professional standards and is able to render effective service.... (*The Book of Discipline*, ¶¶ 315.6c, 324.8, 347.3, 357.7, 355.3, 368.5).

The following lists show standard screening practices to be considered in an assessment of physical health. Additionally, the physician may choose to make recommendations to the candidate as needed. While the candidate’s physician should make the final determination regarding the need for specific medical tests as related to the overall health and needs of the candidate, The United Methodist Church seeks a summary report from the physician upon completion of a physical examination of the candidate that provides an assessment of the candidate’s physical ability to perform the required work of ministry.

NOTE: DO NOT RECORD SCREENING RESULTS ON THIS FORM.

Screening

- Height and weight (periodically)
- Blood pressure
- Alcohol and tobacco use
- Depression (if appropriate follow-up is available)
- Diabetes mellitus (patients with hypertension)
- Dyslipidemia (total and HDL cholesterol): men ≥ 35 y; men or women ≥ 20 y who have cardiovascular risk factors; measure every 5 y if normal
- Colorectal cancer screening (men and women 50-75 y)
- Mammogram every 1 to 2 y for all women ≥ 40 y. Evaluation for BRCA testing in high-risk women only.
- Papanicolaou test (at least every 3 y until age 65 y)
- Chlamydial infection (sexually active women ≤ 25 y and older at-risk women)
- Routine voluntary HIV screening (ages 13-64 y)
- Bone mineral density test (women ≥ 65 y and at-risk women 60-64 y)
- AAA screening (one time in men 65-75 y who have ever smoked)

Counseling—Substance Abuse

- Tobacco cessation counseling
- Alcohol misuse: brief behavioral counseling; alcohol abuse: referral for specialty treatment

Counseling—Diet and Exercise

- Behavioral dietary counseling in patients with hyperlipidemia, risks for CHD and other diet-related chronic disease
- Regular physical activity (at least 30 minutes per day most days of the week)
- Intensive counseling/behavioral interventions for obese patients

* Based on recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

AAA = abdominal aortic aneurysm; BRCA = breast cancer susceptibility gene; CHD = coronary heart disease.

Key Points

- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends routine periodic screening for hypertension, obesity, dyslipidemia (men ≥ 35 years), osteoporosis (women ≥ 65 years), abdominal aortic aneurysm (one-time-screening), depression, and HIV infection.
- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends routine periodic screening for colorectal cancer (persons 50-74 years of age), breast cancer (women ≥ 40 years), and cervical cancer.

Key Points

- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that all pregnant women be screened for asymptomatic bacteriuria, iron-deficiency anemia, hepatitis B virus, and syphilis.
- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends against screening for hemochromatosis; carotid artery stenosis; coronary artery disease; herpes simplex virus; or testicular, ovarian, pancreatic, or bladder cancer.
- Outside of prenatal, preconception, and newborn care, genetic testing should not be performed in unselected populations because of lower clinical validity; potential for false positives; and potential for harm, including “genetic labeling.”
- For patients for whom genetic testing may be appropriate, referral for genetic counseling should be provided before and after testing.
- A human papillomavirus vaccine series is indicated in females ages 9 through 26 years, regardless of sexual activity, for prevention of cervical cancer.
- A single dose of tetanus-diphtheria–acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine should be given to adults ages 19 through 64 years to replace the next tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) booster.
- A zoster (shingles) vaccine is given to all patients 60 years and older regardless of history of prior shingles or varicella infection.
- Asymptomatic adults who plan to be physically active at the recommended levels do not need to consult with a physician prior to beginning exercise unless they have a specific medical question.
- Smoking status should be determined for all patients.
- Patients who want to quit smoking should be offered pharmacologic therapy in addition to counseling, including telephone quit lines.
- Routine screening is recommended to identify persons whose alcohol use puts them at risk.
- For management of alcohol abuse and dependence, referral for specialty treatment is recommended; for management of alcohol misuse, brief behavioral counseling may be useful.
- Clues for chemical dependency include unexpected behavioral changes, acute intoxication, frequent job changes, unexplained financial problems, family history of substance abuse, frequent problems with law enforcement agencies, having a partner with substance abuse, and medical sequelae of drug abuse.
- Condom use reduces transmission of HIV, Chlamydia, gonorrhea, Trichomonas, herpes virus, and human papillomavirus.
- It is important to ask about domestic violence when patients present with symptoms or behaviors that may be associated with abuse.
- When an abusive situation is identified, address immediate safety needs.



To the Coordinator of Clergy Services:

Coordinator of Clergy Services Office (clergyservices@umcsc.org)
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Office: (803) 786-9486
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CONSENT FOR THE RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION - COMPLETED BY CANDIDATE

Candidate Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

I hereby authorize and direct _____ (physician) to disclose to the South Carolina (annual conference) Board of Ordained Ministry the following information with regard to the records of _____ (*candidate's name*) for the purpose of evaluation by The United Methodist Church for entrance into ministry.

I, the undersigned, understand that I may revoke this consent at any time except to the extent that action has been taken in reliance upon it. This consent will expire sixty (60) days after the date treatment is terminated unless another date is specified.

I understand that the information requested may be disclosed from records whose confidentiality is otherwise protected by federal as well as state law. Any of the above requested information may include results of alcohol/drug (substance) abuse and/or diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders, as well as HIV status.

To the party receiving this information: This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by federal law. Federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2) prohibit you from making any further disclosure of it without the specific written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by such regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose.

Signature of Candidate: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Witness: _____

Date: _____



SUMMARY REPORT – COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN

Complete the summary report. The United Methodist Church assumes you are completing this information based on a current physical examination of the candidate. Screening guidelines are provided for reference as needed.

This person is a candidate for ministry in The United Methodist Church. Among other requirements, this includes being able to typically work a full-time week – with periodic weeks requiring longer work hours. Those serving in ministry will encounter situations that require the ability to cope with conflict and stress. Job-related tasks range from office work and traveling from site to site to communicating with and relating to a variety of people and managing multiple tasks simultaneously, among other responsibilities.

Candidate's Name _____

Date of Physical Exam: _____

Check One:

_____ Based on the physical exam I completed, this candidate appears to be healthy. I have no concerns about his/her physical fitness for ministry.

_____ Based on the physical exam I completed, this candidate has some health concerns that are summarized below.

Summary of Concerns:

Typical treatment(s) for this condition could potentially include (medication, surgery, lifestyle modification, intervention by specialist, frequent monitoring, etc.):

Questions to ask, or conversation that a committee might have, to address these concerns could include:

Examining Provider: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Signature: _____

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