

Aerospace Medicine Physician: Private Practice

Meet Allen Parmet, MD, an Aerospace Medicine Physician who has numerous activities in Aerospace Medicine and Forensics. Read more about his experience to see if aerospace medicine may be right for your future career.

Profession: Aerospace Medicine/Occupational Medicine/Forensic Medicine

Workplace: Self-employed, offices in Kansas City, Missouri

Education: BS (Chemistry), United States Air Force Academy
MD, University of Kansas
MPH, University of Texas
Residency in Aerospace & Occupational Medicine, USAF

Years in practice: 41

My typical day:

I never have a typical day. I may see a dozen pilots for medical certification. Some may be new students with no health problems. Others may be on maintenance medications for hypertension, glaucoma or diabetes. Still others may be seeking Special Issuance (FAA waivers) after recovery from a heart attack or cancer therapy.

Another day may find me evaluating employees who are traveling to China, India or Africa. They will need vaccinations, prophylactic medications and education to keep them healthy and fit to work while abroad.

I may see injured workers in clinic or go to their workplace, looking for the cause of an outbreak of pulmonary illness, rashes or improving the ergonomics and safety. Worker drug testing programs, reviewing results and referring positives for rehabilitation.

I may be consulted to review a motor vehicle crash, aircraft accident or a fatal workplace accident. Or I may join my state disaster team to help victims of an earthquake, hurricane or tsunami. I consult for an airline in regard to disabilities of aircrew and safe return to work. Sometimes I take my findings to court as an expert witness

My challenges and rewards:

My days are never dull and never the same. One is always challenged to draw on your fund of knowledge and learn new developments.

How Aerospace Medicine is different:

I am not in an office all day seeing sick people. I may see healthy people or I may go out to inspect a cheese factory, a water treatment plant or an automotive parts manufacturer. Sometimes the workplace or the environment is unhealthy, and I can help fix it. The last time I saw patients in a hospital, I was investigating an outbreak of a viral illness among the nursing staff!

Skills I need for Aerospace Medicine:

There is no limit to what you need to study and learn. My hobby as a woodworker helped when dealing with illness and injury in carpenters. You don't study sewage plants and noisy canning factories in medical school. What you really need is an open, inquisitive mind and enjoy detective work.

Books I recommend:

The Complete Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle
The Medical Detectives or *Eleven Blue Men* by Berton Roueché
Sonic Wind by Craig Ryan

Online resources:

www.cdc.gov
www.asma.org

