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Lost Time Due to Surgery or Injury

If you are seriously injured or undergo surgery you should not fly until the treating doctor/surgeon clears you for “all activities without any restrictions” and you are off all pain medications for the FAA recommended waiting time. If the doctor questions what activities you have to perform you can let them know the FAA requires you to be able to perform all the emergency activities in the aircraft: lift and remove the 50# passenger emergency door, apply 110# of pressure to the rudder pedals, climb down the emergency cockpit rope ladder, ETC. Even if your aircraft or duties do not require these activities.

If you are undergoing an elective surgery and the problem that requires surgery does not limit you in any way to safely operate the aircraft, and you are on no disqualifying pain medications, you may continue to fly until the time of the surgery.

Please bring a copy of the surgery and return to work notes, or copy of the ER/Urgent care/office note if you were out due to an injury, to your next FAA flight physical exam for A.M.E. review. If you have any questions or doubt about returning to flying, you are welcome to email copies of the reports/notes to me for review.