

GENERAL INFORMATION	
KEYWORDS	Marine medical certificate, dysthymia
FILE NO.	MH-0072-28
SECTOR (Marine or Aviation)	Marine
SPECIFIC JOB	---
DIAGNOSIS (Primary, Secondary, etc.)	Dysthymic disorder
REVIEW	
DATE OF DETERMINATION	November 21, 2011
MEMBER	Dr. Kenneth J. Corbet
DETERMINATION	The member confirms the Minister of Transport's decision to refuse to issue a maritime medical certificate to the applicant.
REASONS FOR DETERMINATION	
<p>Refusal to issue a marine medical certificate (MMC) — The witness for the Minister of Transport (Minister) testified that in the applicant's Marine Medical Examination Report, it was noted that the applicant was under psychiatric care for three years; he is taking two psychotropic medications for low-grade depression (dysthymia); and he has Asperger syndrome (an autism spectrum disorder). Three progress notes from his psychiatrist also reported the applicant's ongoing depression and alcohol use, and specific recommendations that the applicant seek help for his drinking or attend a detoxification center. The applicant did attend an outpatient community-based addiction program, but continued to use alcohol, though in smaller quantities. He continued taking medications for his depression. During cross-examination, the Minister's witness noted that the applicant's depression, medications, and probable Asperger syndrome would not in and of themselves disqualify him from obtaining an MMC, provided he is clinically functional, compliant with treatment, and not experiencing side effects from his medication. However, he noted that the applicant's diagnosis of alcohol dependency and his continued use of alcohol would preclude him from working in a "safety critical" seafarer role. The applicant's alcohol use and mental health diagnoses warrant a medical reassessment, updated treatment recommendations, and a monitoring plan or program. The applicant presented convincing evidence of his exceptional performance while serving with the Naval Reserve, and he undoubtedly had strong potential as a civilian seafarer. He must, however, fully commit to and comply with the treatment and monitoring of his medical conditions in order to hold an MMC.</p>	
APPEAL	
DATE OF DECISION	
MEMBERS	
DECISION	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION	
OTHER/COMMENTS	