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16. Abstract

Objective: This project aimed to provide independent subject matter expertise to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) by evaluating alternative neurocognitive tests for aeromedical certification, including consideration of what, if any, future validation research should be performed. Methods: An Independent Review Panel (IRP) of neuropsychology and cognitive-testing experts reviewed neurocognitive test batteries and informational documents and responded to a questionnaire provided by the FAA. The panel produced a consensus report to document their findings and recommendations. The panel deliberated on data collection approaches to promote validity and reliability, and to guide a decision on best practices for utilizing the alternative neurocognitive tests. Results: The IRP provided recommendations on whether validation research should be conducted, along with caveats, implementation considerations, and conditions to support safe, evidence-based integration into aeromedical decision-making. Conclusions: The IRP findings are deliberative and intended to inform FAA aeromedical certification, balancing practical considerations with rigorous scientific standards to safeguard aviation safety.

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