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10 Reasons Why an N-648 Might Be Denied

USCIS recently tightened its review of N-648 medical waivers. Requirements have gotten stricter, and denials more common. Before you submit an N-648, please check these key points:

1. Did you use the most recent form? Older forms will not be accepted. (As of February 2021, use the form dated 7/23/2020.)*
2. Did you use DSM or ICD codes in your clinical diagnosis?
3. Did you provide enough information about each condition you diagnosed? Lack of detail can raise credible doubts.
4. Is the description personalized to your patient? Generic answers or templates can also raise credible doubts.
5. Did you enter dates of when the condition(s) began, and when they were diagnosed? Even a missing date can result in denial.
6. Did you describe the specific cause(s) and severity of each condition, and how it affects your patient's daily life?
7. Did you state that your patient is uneducated or illiterate? Please delete it. This is not considered grounds for a medical waiver, and can trigger a denial.
8. Did you establish a specific connection between the condition(s) and the patient's inability to learn English and/or civics? This answer (Part 3, Question 13) is crucial to a successful N-648.
9. If you're not the patient's regular physician, did you provide a thorough explanation of why he or she didn't prepare the form?
10. Did you and your patient (and in-person interpreter, if any) sign and date the form?

We recognize these requirements can be time-consuming. However, a properly filled-out N-648 will greatly improve your patient's chances of becoming a U.S. citizen. We are here to help. Please contact us if you have any questions.

*We recommend downloading fillable forms at <https://www.uscis.gov/n-648>, and typing your answers rather than filling them out by hand.

