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Subject: CEN24FA164, NTSB FASTMED Summary

On February 26, 2026, the FAA Medical Case Review, Autopsy Report, and FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory Toxicology Report of the pilot were reviewed by an NTSB Office of Research and Engineering medical officer. The following is a summary of the report.

An autopsy of the pilot was performed by Hill Country Forensics, Georgetown, Texas, which listed the cause of death as blunt force injuries and manner of death was accident. The pilot's autopsy identified an area of 80% narrowing of the left anterior descending coronary artery with additional mild narrowing of the other coronary arteries.

Postmortem toxicology testing at the FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory detected cetirizine in the aortic blood at 14 ng/mL and in urine at 326 ng/mL.

Cetirizine is a second-generation antihistamine medication that is available over the counter and is commonly used to treat allergy symptoms. Cetirizine often carries a warning that users may experience drowsiness and should be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery. Data on sedation and psychomotor impairment from cetirizine are mixed, with some studies finding some sedating and impairing effects. The FAA states that pilots should wait 48 hours after using cetirizine before flying, to allow time for the drug to be cleared from circulation.

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