



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

S: 1 August 2002
S: 1 November 2002

22 JUL 2002

MCHO-Q (40)

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENs/MEDDACs

SUBJECT: Army Medical Department Implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense (VA/DOD) Behavioral Health Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs)

1. A broadcast to support implementation of the VA/DOD CPG on the Management of Major Depressive Disorder in Adults will be held on 4 September 2002, from 1300-1500 Eastern Time (Enclosure 1). The VA/DOD Behavioral Health CPG Tool Kit will not only provide tools to support the implementation of the VA/DOD CPG for Major Depressive Disorder, but will provide tools to support the implementation of the VA/DOD CPG for the Management of Substance Use Disorders in the Primary Care Setting as well as information on Suicide Prevention. Implementation of these guidelines and use of the implementation tools provided will improve the quality of care of VA and DOD beneficiaries who experience major depressive disorders and/or substance use disorders or those who are at risk for suicide.
2. This satellite broadcast, co-developed by the AMEDD and the VA, consists of the following:
 - a. A presentation by DOD and VA clinical practice guideline champions detailing key points of the Major Depressive Disorder guideline and the targeted guideline performance metrics.
 - b. A presentation of provider, health care team, patient and system tools to facilitate implementation of the Major Depressive Disorder and Substance Use Disorders CPGs as well as materials on Suicide Prevention.
3. This CPG is targeted for primary care personnel caring for patients with major depressive disorder and/or substance use disorders and patients who are at risk for suicide. The CPG was adapted for use by multidisciplinary health care team personnel from the four federal organizations (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Department of Veterans Affairs).

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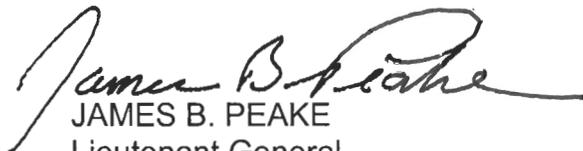
4. Implementation materials provided in the VA/DOD Behavioral Health CPG Tool Kit will be mailed to each Regional Medical Command and medical treatment facility (MTF) in mid-August 2002. This tool kit was developed with the input of VA and DOD physician, nurse, and patient education personnel.

5. The success of this guideline initiative depends on its effective implementation in each primary care clinic at every MTF. Local practice guideline champions and integrated health care team personnel should carry out these implementation functions. The form (Enclosure 2) provides guidance on team membership, along with a grid to list your MTF's team members. Forward the names of your MTF's Behavioral Health CPG Team to Ms. Pamala Farris at pamala.farris@cen.amedd.army.mil no later than 1 August 2002. An implementation manual developed to guide CPG team activities can be downloaded from the Quality Management Directorate website at: http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/qmo/rand_document_4_01.pdf or found in the Major Depressive CPG tool kit binder in your Behavioral Health CPG Tool Kit.

6. I suggest local action teams be afforded time in which to formulate their team's implementation strategy and action plan. The recommended planning process and worksheets to support preparation of an action plan are incorporated with the implementation manual. An information paper (Enclosure 3) will assist your MTFs in establishing an implementation plan. Utilize your MTF Action Plan to organize your MTF's Behavioral Health CPG activities. Your MTF's plan for implementation of the Behavioral Health CPGs at your facility is due by 1 November 2002.

7. Our point of contact is Ms. Pamala Farris, Behavioral Health CPG Administrative Champion, Headquarters MEDCOM, Quality Management Directorate, 2050 Worth Road, Suite 26, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6026, DSN 471-7281 or Commercial (210) 221-7281.

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JAMES B. PEAKE
Lieutenant General
Commanding