



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-HPS-Q

MAY 20 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENs/MEDDACs

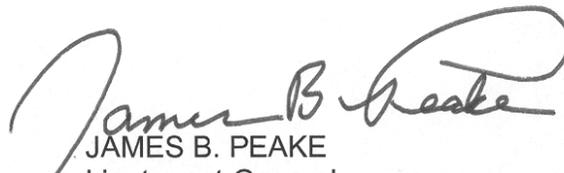
SUBJECT: Intensive Implementation of the Department of Defense/Veteran Affairs (DOD/VA) Post-Deployment Health Evaluation and Management Clinical Practice Guideline (PDH CPG)

1. In light of past terrorist events, continuing threats, and the deployment of our military forces, it is imperative that we stand ready to proactively manage the post-deployment health concerns of our soldiers and their families. To help us meet this challenge, I am directing you to re-energize the PDH CPG. Every care provider at your facility must know how to manage a patient with a post-deployment health concern.

2. As directed by Health Affairs Memo dated 7 December 2001, the DOD-wide implementation of the PDH CPG began on January 30, 2002. Two activities with overlapping missions have partnered to accomplish this within the Army Medical Department. The U. S. Army Medical Command (USAMEDCOM), Quality Management Division is the executive agent responsible for DOD guideline development and implementation. The Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC) is the activity chartered by DOD to improve the quality of post-deployment health care military-wide. The use of the PDH CPG offers a structure for primary care providers to evaluate and manage patients with deployment-related health concerns. The guideline also applies to individuals who were not deployed, but relate their health concerns to a deployment. Over the last year, each DOD military treatment facility (MTF) received a PDH CPG Toolkit, a taped copy of the satellite broadcast, and instructions on how to implement the PDH guideline.

3. The success of this guideline initiative depends on its effective implementation at each MTF. To assist MTF implementation efforts, PDH CPG **Staff Assistance** and **Training (STAT) Teams** will begin to conduct Implementation Conferences in all six Army Regional Medical Commands, commencing this summer. Their initial focus will be on major mobilization and demobilization sites. I expect your maximum support and participation at these interactive conferences.

4. For questions or assistance with guideline implementation, please contact LTC GERALYN CHERRY or Ms PAMALA FARRIS, PDH Guideline Coordinators, USAMEDCOM, Quality Management Division, (210) 221-6527 (DSN 471-6527). For health care provider assistance, please contact Deployment Health Clinical Center Director and Guideline Champion, LTC CHARLES ENGEL, (202) 782-8064 (DSN 662-8064). You can also call the toll-free DHCC provider helpline at (866) 559-1627 (DSN 642-0907). Soldiers or families are directed to call the DHCC Hotline at (800) 796-9699 (DSN 662-3577).


JAMES B. PEAKE
Lieutenant General
Commanding