



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

S: 31 August 2001
S: 1 December 2001

20 JUL 2001

MCHO-Q

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENS/MEDDACs/
DENTACs/DCCs

SUBJECT: Army Medical Department-Wide Implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense (VA/DOD) Tobacco Use Cessation (TUC) in the Primary Care Setting Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG)

1. The VA/DOD TUC CPG will be implemented in all Army Medical Department (AMEDD) facilities by 1 December 2001. System-wide implementation of the guideline will improve the quality of care of DOD beneficiaries who use tobacco products. Guideline implementation will lead to decreased complications of tobacco use, decreasing utilization of health care services, and improving patient satisfaction. This program will facilitate implementation of the Army Well-Being Plan, part of General Eric K. Shinseki's Army Campaign plan.
2. To kick off the AMEDD system-wide implementation of the TUC CPG, there will be an AMEDD sponsored satellite broadcast on 19 September 2001, 1300-1500 Eastern Time (see Enclosure 1). This satellite broadcast was codeveloped by the AMEDD and the VA and consists of the following.
 - a. A presentation by DOD and VA clinical practice guideline champions detailing key points of the guideline and the targeted guideline performance metrics.
 - b. Interviews with DOD and VA personnel who have experience in implementing the guideline.
3. This CPG is targeted for the primary medical and dental health care providers and personnel. It was adapted for use in the federal system from nationally developed, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, by a multidisciplinary team of the four federal organizations (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Department of Veterans Affairs). Dr. Linda Ferry, a VA Preventive Medicine physician, and LTC Wayne Talcott, an Air Force Psychologist, led the multidisciplinary panel of providers in their adaptation of this VA/DOD guideline. The AMEDD's Champion is COL Dallas Hack, a Preventive Medicine physician.

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4. Implementation materials provided in the AMEDD's TUC Tool Kit will be mailed to each Regional Medical Command and medical treatment facility (MTF) in late-August 2001. This tool kit was developed with the input of VA/DOD medical and dental primary care providers, tobacco cessation educators, psychologists, behavioral health specialists, preventive medicine, community health nurses, and other health care personnel.
5. The success of this guideline initiative depends on its effective implementation in each primary care and dental clinic at every MTF. Integration of MTF tobacco cessation efforts with civilian and military community-wide efforts is essential. Local practice guideline champions and integrated medical and dental primary care and community action teams should carry out these implementation functions. The form at Enclosure 2 provides guidance on team membership, along with a grid to list your team members. Forward the names of your MTFs TUC Guideline Team to the Quality Management Directorate, Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command (HQ MEDCOM), 2050 Worth Road, Suite 26, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6026, no later than 31 August 2001. 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 CPG toolkit binders.
6. I suggest local action teams be afforded a daylong off-site planning meeting during which they can formulate their team's implementation strategy and action plan. The MTFs can share their plans with other MTF implementation teams through the TUC list-server at TUC-CPG@PASBA2.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL. The recommended planning process and worksheets to support preparation of an action plan are incorporated in the implementation manual. An information paper at Enclosure 3 will assist your MTFs in establishing an implementation plan. Plan for implementation of the TUC CPG at your facilities is due by 1 December 2001 for continental United States and outside continental United States.
7. Our point of contact is MAJ Geri Cherry, TUC Practice Guideline Administrative Champion, HQ MEDCOM, DSN 471-6527 or Commercial (210) 221-6527.

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JAMES B. PEAKE
Lieutenant General
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