



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

28 AUG 1998

MCHO-CL-W (40)

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands/
Medical Treatment Facilities

SUBJECT: Persian Gulf Illness (PGI) Comprehensive Clinical
Evaluation Program (CCEP)

1. Reference memorandum Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), 28 July 1998, subject: Revision of the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program Guide (Enclosure).
2. Copies of the revised program guide are being distributed by the Department of Defense (DOD) Deployment Surveillance Team to each Triservice Regional Medical Center (Lead Agent) and Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) CCEP Team. Since not all Army Regional Medical Commands are also designated Triservice Lead Agents, we will provide copies for those not included in this distribution channel.
3. Implementation date for the revised CCEP guide was 14 August 1998. Any MTF not in possession of the new guide should contact its designated Triservice Lead Agent to expedite delivery.
4. I wholeheartedly support the CCEP effort. The Army Medical Department has borne the brunt of this program's workload. To date, we have completed nearly 27,000 of the 34,000 CCEP examinations recorded by DOD. Your facilities have an overall completion rate exceeding 97 percent. A job well done!
5. While overall Army performance is commendable, it is evident that a number of our MTFs are experiencing inordinate delays in initiating and completing CCEP examinations. I remind you that the established DOD standard of performance is that all Phase-I CCEP examinations must be completed within 30 days of the patient's assignment to an MTF. Reports show that as of 31 July 1998, there are patients who have been in the CCEP system for

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for more than 3 years. In some cases, their status code indicates that the MTF has not yet even contacted them to establish an appointment for their Phase-I examination. Percentage completion rates are high, approaching 100 percent for most MTFs, but patient backlog reports suggest that many of the remaining patients are "lost" from visibility. I thus enjoin each MTF to initiate an immediate purge of assigned CCEP patient listings. Copies of each MTF's current CCEP backlog listing are available to any MTF commander.

6. Although the bulk of the work is behind us, new CCEP enrollees continue to arrive at Army MTFs at an average rate of 200 per month. In addition to the new program guidelines noted by Dr. Bailey in her memorandum (Enclosure), there will be a demand for additional examinations and tests for Persian Gulf War veterans who may have had exposure to depleted uranium.

7. I expect all commanders to continue to support and resource this program and to work toward the timely accomplishment of the required examinations under the revised guidelines. In addition, I urge you to take a proactive role in publicizing this program and encouraging all eligible veterans to avail themselves of these services if they are concerned that they are experiencing health conditions associated with Gulf War service.

8. Our point of contact is Mr. Roy Neve, MEDCOM CCEP Program Assistant, DSN 471-7168 or Commercial (210) 221-7168 or telefax (210) 221-6673. Requests for specific MTF CCEP backlog reports may be directed to him telephonically, by mail, telefax, CC-mail, or E-mail at roy_neve@smtplink.medcom.amedd.army.mil.



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Encl
as

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

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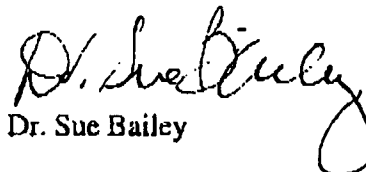
MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Revision of the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program Program Guide

Since establishment of the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP) in June 1994, the CCEP has demonstrated significant success in evaluating and diagnosing Gulf War veterans for a variety of medical conditions. To date, over 32,000 participants have completed the CCEP process. The CCEP continues to process over 100 referrals per week.

The continued use of the CCEP by our Gulf War veterans, improvements in the Military Health System (MHS) environment, legislative and policy developments, and the implementation of TRICARE have prompted a revision of the CCEP program guide. The attached May 1998 revision of the program guide will replace the January 1995 version at each MHS Military Treatment Facility (MTF).

In an effort to continue providing the highest quality healthcare to our Gulf War veterans, please implement this revised program guide effective August 14, 1998. The Deployment Surveillance Team will distribute copies of the revised program guide to each Regional Medical Center and MTF CCEP Team.


Dr. Sue Bailey

Attachment:
As stated

Encl 1
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