



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-Q

22 April 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENs/MEDDACs

SUBJECT: Army Medical Department Implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense (VA/DoD) Postoperative Pain Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG)

1. A broadcast to support implementation of the VA/DoD CPG for the Management of Postoperative Pain will be held 29 May 2002, from 1300-1500 EST (see Enclosure 1). Implementation of the guideline will improve the quality of care of DoD and VA beneficiaries who experience postoperative pain and assist Army Medical Department (AMEDD), DoD and VA facilities in meeting the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Pain Standards.
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 guideline and the targeted guideline performance metrics.
  - b. A presentation of provider, health care team, patient and system tools to facilitate implementation of the Postoperative Pain CPG and JCAHO Pain Standards.
3. This CPG is targeted for health care personnel caring for patients with postoperative pain. It was adapted for use by multidisciplinary healthcare team personnel from the four federal organizations (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Department of Veterans Affairs).
4. Implementation materials provided in the VA/DoD Postoperative Pain Tool Kit will be mailed to each regional medical command and medical treatment facility (MTF) in mid-May 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 postoperative care unit at every MTF. Local practice guideline champions and integrated health care team personnel should carry out these implementation functions. The form at Enclosure 2 provides guidance on team membership, along with a grid to

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list your MTF's team members. Most facilities already have an active Pain Management JCAHO team, which may be utilized to achieve guideline implementation. Forward the names of your MTFs Postoperative Pain Guideline Team to MAJ Geri Cherry at [geralyn.cherry@cen.amedd.army.mil](mailto:geralyn.cherry@cen.amedd.army.mil) no later than 15 May 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](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/qmo/rand_document_4_01.pdf) or found in the CPG toolkit binder.

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 at Enclosure 3 will assist your MTFs in establishing an implementation plan. Utilize your MTF Action Plan to organize your MTF's Post-Operative Pain CPG and JCAHO Pain Standard activities.

7. Our point of contact is MAJ Geri Cherry, Post-Operative Pain Practice Guideline Administrative Champion, HQ USAMEDCOM, DSN 471-8971, or Commercial (210)221-8971.



Howard M. Kimes  
COL, MC  
Director, Directorate of Quality  
Management

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