



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO

6600
Ser M3D32/00787
02 Oct 02

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (M3D)

Subj: CHANGES TO THE DENTAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Encl: (1) MANMED Chapter 6, Article 6-101
(2) US Navy Dental Health and Readiness Classification Guidelines of 01 Oct 02
(3) DoD ASD (HA) Policy: 98-021 Memo of 19 Feb 98

1. Current Dental Health and Readiness Classification guidelines are reflected in enclosure (1). In order to provide a more valid and reliably predictable indicator of Operational Dental Readiness (ODR) and Dental Health for Sailors and Marines deploying for extended periods of time, the changes to the dental classification system presented in enclosure (2), are effective immediately and will be included in an upcoming change to MANMED.

2. Enclosure (3) requires an ODR of 95% for all units and 100% ODR for units deploying for extended periods of time. I am in full support of this directive and am confident dental activities will ensure, to the degree operationally possible, deployed units remain at maximum dental readiness throughout their deployment.

3. The decision to provide real time readiness statistics to the fleet and the expectant transient increase in the number of Class 3 patients has generated concerns at the boot camps and NDCs regarding patients' access to the care required following implementation of these more stringent classification criteria. Those concerns should be mitigated as optimization efforts continue to evolve. I expect Navy Dentistry to aggressively develop more efficient and improved methods to meet the oral health and readiness expectations of our patients and line customers. Advances in clinical technology, information technology and our dental delivery system will enable us to provide the best possible and most responsive dental care to the most deserving patients in the world, United States Sailors and Marines.

4. To facilitate calibration of providers throughout Navy Dentistry, the Phased Dentistry Guidelines (Managed Care Guidelines) and the Dental Image Quiz CD-ROM are being updated to reflect the new classification guidelines. Also, changes to the EZ603.2 trial form have been made to ensure that Navy Dentistry has the ability to prioritize and target dental care using a standardized system and a standardized database. While I believe we will be able to meet our patients' Class 3 needs, the ability to identify those individuals at increased dental risk must be available should the need arise to mobilize operational forces on short notice. The updated Managed Care guidelines, the Dental Image CD-ROM and the revised EZ603.2 should be distributed by the end of the year.

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5. If you have any questions please contact Commander Patrick Munley (M3D32) at COMM 202-762-3013, DSN 762-3013 or pjmunley@us.med.navy.mil.


D. D. WOOFTER
Deputy Chief for
Dental Operations Support

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