



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

APR 29 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF/MI)
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

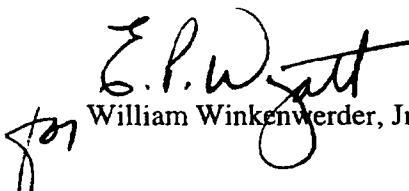
SUBJECT: Vaccination of New Recruits Against Hepatitis B

In the 2002 DoD Appropriations Conference Report, Congress requested DoD to begin vaccinating all new recruits against Hepatitis B, to be funded through a "carve out" of \$8.4 million from the 2002 appropriations to begin the vaccination program.

In response to this Congressional request, I direct the Services to plan and implement a vaccination program to vaccinate all new recruits. Current DoD policy requires that all health care personnel, Army personnel assigned to Korea, and military personnel traveling to high-risk areas of the world, be immunized against hepatitis B. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices recommends that all health care workers and all infants be vaccinated against hepatitis B, and a catch-up program to immunize older children be instituted as feasible. In addition, adolescents with high-risk factors should be immunized. Many states have required vaccination against hepatitis B as a requirement for school or childcare entry. As a result, the Services should consider serologic testing as part of the immunization program if it is cost beneficial. The Services should submit their implementation plans to this office within 30 days. The vaccination programs should be implemented NLT July 1, 2002.

Attached are vaccination program cost estimates that may be useful to the Services in developing and implementing Service-specific programs.

Because current funding is for FY 02, the Services should submit requirements for the program for FY 03, and include program-specific funding requirements in the FY 04-09 POM submission. Please note that preliminary program estimates far exceed the initial \$8.4 million "carve-out."


for William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
USMB
USCG

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