

INFORMATION PAPER

Military Vaccine Agency
30 November 2011

SUBJECT: Standing Orders for Vaccine Delivery in DoD

1. Purpose. To provide an outline for Standing Orders for Vaccine Delivery in the Department of Defense (DoD).

2. Facts.

a. In the United States, federal law prohibits dispensing human vaccines or immune globulins without a prescription of a practitioner licensed by law to administer such drug (Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21USC 353, 21CFR 610.60[a] [6]).

b. Standing order programs authorize the administration of immunizations based on approved protocols without a written physician order or referral from a primary care provider.

c. Standing orders are written protocols that delineate the circumstances under which an individual other than a physician can engage in the legal practice of medicine. Standing orders describe the specific type of medical practice that will be delegated, delineate the procedures that personnel must follow, identify the patient population that may be served, specify the level of physician supervision required, and govern the locations where the services may occur.

d. Standing orders are intended for use by healthcare personnel working within their scope of practice as determined by their license and each Service. Individuals must be properly trained in screening patients for contraindications, administering vaccines, and monitoring patients for adverse events in accordance with the DoD, United States Coast Guard (USCG), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Training standards include baseline and annual refresher training.

e. Successful standing order programs for immunizations should include protocols that:

1. Identify persons eligible for vaccination based on age, vaccination status, occupational or travel requirements and/or medical conditions that put them at high risk for infection.

2. Provide adequate information to patients or their guardians regarding the risks and benefits of a vaccine (i.e. vaccine information statements (VIS)) and documentation of that information in compliance with Federal, DoD, and Service-specific guidelines.

3. Record patient refusals or medical and administrative exemptions to in the appropriate Service-specific Immunization Tracking System (ITS) and/or the individual medical record.

4. Document vaccine administration within DoD and Service specific ITS (e.g., AHLTA, MEDPROS (Army), AFCITA (Air Force), MRRS (Navy, Marine Corps) and any post vaccination adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

5. Address quality assurance process to maintain appropriate standards of care for immunization delivery by staff.

f. Standing orders must be available for each vaccine in use and at each site where vaccines are administered (e.g., Military Treatment Facilities (MTF), Troop Clinics, and Satellite Clinics).

g. Standing orders must be signed by the appointed physician with oversight of the immunization process. Standing orders must be renewed at least annually and with any changes in oversight responsibilities, changes in vaccine administration methods, or updates in vaccine recommendations by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, in order to remain valid.

h. Examples of routine standing orders can be found at the following website www.immunize.org/standingorders.

3. References.

a. Army Regulation (AR) 40-562/BUMEDINST 6230.15A/AFJI 48-110/CG COMDTINST M6230.4F, Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, 29 September 2006.

b. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adult Immunization programs in nontraditional settings: quality standards and guidance for program evaluation – a report of the NVAC and Use of standing orders programs to increase adult vaccination rates: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2000; 49(RR01); 15-26.

c. Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21USC 353, 21CFR 610.60 [a] [6].

d. Stewart, A., Cox, M., and Rosenbaum, S. "Epidemiology of US Immunization Law: Translating CDC Immunization Guidelines into Practice: State Laws Related to the Use of Standing Orders Covering Immunization Practice." Department of Health Policy, NIP/CDC. Winter 2007.

f. Multiple resources assembled by the Military Vaccine Agency: www.vaccines.mil/standingorders.

Ms Celia Dowers/ (703) 325-6560

Approved by: LTC Garman