



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

DEC 21 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)

SUBJECT: Assistance in Informing Department of Defense (DoD) Personnel of the
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Program to Collect
Plasma from Anthrax Vaccinees

The HHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are sponsoring a program to collect blood plasma from individuals who have been vaccinated against anthrax. The plasma will be purified to produce anthrax immune globulin (AIG) to fight against anthrax infection and will be stored in CDC's Strategic National Stockpile. This is an expansion of a similar program that was initiated at several DoD installations in 2002.

The United States Food and Drug Administration licensed anthrax vaccine has been used to vaccinate more than 1.7 million individuals, most of whom are DoD Service members. The DoD should support this program by allowing HHS to inform Service members of the plasma-collection program. HHS has reviewed this public health program to assure compliance with applicable laws and regulations as well as proper safety standards for the participants.

Publicizing this program to vaccinated Service members will take place by providing brochures at DoD installation immunization clinics and facilitating other appropriate HHS-funded promotional activities. The Military Vaccine Agency will coordinate this program. Attached for your further information is a fact sheet on this program.

I fully support permitting HHS and its designated plasma donation centers to inform anthrax vaccinees on Military installations of this program and recommend Military Department support. Plasma donation will be completely voluntary. My point of contact is LTC Paula Doulaveris at 703-681-2902 or Paula.Doulaveris@amedd.mil.


S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:
Service Surgeons General