

[\[Categorical Listing\]](#)[\[Numerical Listing\]](#)



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

05 Mar 98

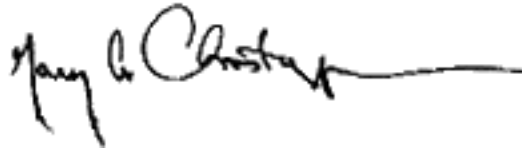
**MEMORANDUM FOR:** SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY  
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE  
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

**SUBJECT:** Policy on Issue and Use of the Antibiotic Ciprofloxacin for the Post-Exposure Treatment of Anthrax

The following policy applies to all forces regardless of their anthrax immunization status (i.e., immunized and non-immunized individuals). Antibiotics taken after exposure to a large number of Anthrax bacteria, such as would occur after a weaponized release will probably result in greater protection than is afforded by the vaccine alone. Post-exposure antibiotic therapy for anthrax immunized individuals provides an additional measure of safety and in no way implies that the vaccine is not the preferred preventive measure. Use of ciprofloxacin is authorized only for treatment and has not been approved as a routine preventive agent before exposure. Doxycycline is an acceptable alternative in the event ciprofloxacin is not available or well tolerated by the service member. The recommended dosage is ciprofloxacin 500 mgm twice daily or doxycycline, 100 mgm twice daily for thirty days after exposure unless otherwise directed by a medical officer.

The combatant CINC is authorized to issue the medication directly to military personnel if the operational exigency would prevent normal prescribing channels by a medical officer. In this case, instructions will be issued to service members describing the appropriate use of the antibiotics as well as possible side effects. Specific instructions will be included which stipulate that the service member is to begin the antibiotic only upon direction of appropriate authority and only after detection of an anthrax attack or following known exposure.

The combatant CINC is responsible for ensuring accurate and thorough documentation of the distribution and disposition of the antibiotic. Personnel who issue the antibiotic, whether medical or line staff, will generate a record log which records the service member's name and SSN, the specific antibiotic, dosage size, quantity, and date of issue. At redeployment, any unused antibiotic will be collected and recorded. If the antibiotic is issued through medical channels, the appropriate information will be entered in the service medical record. Copies of logs detailing issuance as well as collection of the antibiotic will be forwarded to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's Deployment Surveillance Team through appropriate channels no later than 60 days after redeployment or departure from the immediate area of operations.



Gary A. Christopherson  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense

**HA Policy 98-024**

---

[\[Top\]](#)

Last update: 8/4/1998