



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

IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDINST 6320.99
BUMED-M00WII
2 Feb 2011

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6320.99

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Subj: ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR WOUNDED WARRIOR CARE

1. Purpose. To implement a process for identification, analysis and engagement of advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options for wounded warriors, including opportunities outside the direct care system. This process will include identification of emerging or advanced clinical practices options, validation of the opportunity as appropriate for our beneficiary population, information dissemination about the opportunities, and care coordination to ensure that these options are available to wounded warriors.
2. Applicability and Scope. This instruction provides information and guidance for all Navy Medicine activities, organizations, institutions, programs, and personnel.
3. Background.
 - a. Military medicine is a world leader in combat casualty care including limb salvage, wound care, facial fractures, eye injuries, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Military medicine remains at the forefront of clinical care and research in these areas and seeks to foster innovation both within our military treatment facilities (MTF) and with external partners.
 - b. The rapid and vast spectrum of advancements in diagnostic and therapeutic options for conditions that affect wounded warriors has created a need for a new process for connecting clinical trials, advanced clinical care and emerging therapeutic options to patients, particularly wounded warriors. Given the broad array of therapeutic options, a systematic process is needed to identify and evaluate these therapeutics opportunities so that providers and patients can be confident that these opportunities meet an appropriate threshold of scientific and clinical excellence. Once an opportunity is validated, infrastructure must be in place to facilitate connecting patients to the therapeutic option or clinical trial.
4. Concept of Operations. The essential elements of this new process are Environmental Scanning, Review and Validation, Information Management, and Care Navigation.
 - a. Environmental Scanning: Navy Medicine will resource and assign dedicated assets to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's Office of the Special Assistant for Research Development (BUMED-M00RD). These assets will be responsible for scanning the military and civilian research and expert clinical care environment to identify and catalogue potential opportunities related to care for wounded warriors. Initially, this scan will be focused on efforts related to advances in care of extremity trauma and burns. Ultimately, the Environmental Scanning Office will serve as a clearinghouse for all emerging and advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options.

b. Review and Validation: Advanced expert, innovative and emerging options will only be offered to patients after careful evaluation of risks, benefits, unintended consequences as well as personnel, policy and cost implications. An Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options Validation Panel, chaired by the Deputy Chief, BUMED comprised of subject matter experts, senior military medical leaders, line leaders, researchers, and other key stakeholders will be chartered to provide thoughtful review and deliberation of these issues. The panel will make a recommendation to Chief, BUMED regarding engagement and promotion of the reviewed opportunity.

c. Information Management: Once a therapeutic option or clinical trial has been endorsed by the Chief, BUMED, information regarding this opportunity, including the inclusion/exclusion criteria will be communicated to clinicians, case managers (both clinical and non-clinical) and patients. Push of this information to care providers and patients, ideally targeted at specific patients known to have ongoing needs via patient registries, is intended to provide widespread awareness of the opportunities and thus reduce potential geographic variability in access. The information management platform will also serve as a primary resource for clinicians, care managers, and patients who have questions about care options. Establishment, resourcing and management of information management processes will be the responsibility of the Special Assistant for Wounded, Ill and Injured Warrior Care (BUMED-M00WII).

d. Care Navigation: The key aspect of this process is to remove barriers and connect patients to emerging diagnostic and therapeutic options by working with the clinicians and medical and non-medical case managers currently engaged with the patient. Care will be executed through the appropriate Navy Medicine Region with facilitation from the Care Navigators located at BUMED. The Special Assistant, BUMED-M00WII will have the responsibility for the Care Navigation process.

5. Policy. It is Navy Medicine policy to develop and implement processes that connect approved emerging and advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options within and outside of military medicine while ensuring full compliance with all applicable statutory regulations and Department of Defense policies.

6. Responsibilities

a. Chief, BUMED

(1) Final Navy Medicine authority on approval of advanced expert and emerging diagnostic and therapeutic options for wounded warrior referral as outlined in this instruction; formulates all policies; and assigns process leadership authorities.

(2) Appoints, in writing, core members to the Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Validation Panel.

(3) Oversees the successful processing of resource management requirements.

(4) Collaborates with Director, TRICARE Management Activity to resolve policy issues that impede access to approved Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options.

(5) Collaborates with Vice Chief of Naval Operations and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps to resolve personnel policy issues that impede access to approved Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options.

b. Deputy Chief, BUMED

(1) Serves as Chairman, Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options Validation Panel. In this role is responsible for ensuring thorough review of emerging diagnostic or therapeutic option as outlined above, 4b, and makes recommendation to Chief, BUMED on further engagement of the option.

(2) Directs the implementation of this instruction, assists Deputy Chiefs, and refers matters to the Chief, BUMED when necessary.

c. Special Assistant for Wounded, Ill, and Injured Warrior Care

(1) Coordinates Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options for wounded warriors across Navy Medicine for Chief, BUMED.

(2) Assists BUMED-M00RD in preparation of Validation Panel meetings, especially identification of key subject matter experts (SME) for the options being discussed.

(3) Oversees and appoints project officer for establishment and implementation of Information Management as described above, 4c.

(4) Oversees and appoints project officer for establishment and implementation of Care Navigation as described above, 4d.

(5) Acts as primary Navy Medicine representative to TRICARE Management Activity and United States Navy and United States Marine Corp Line leadership to resolve policy issues that impede access to approved advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options.

(6) Develops key metrics to track implementation, utilization, satisfaction, and costs. Metrics will be presented to the Corporate Executive Board quarterly.

d. Special Assistant for Research Development

(1) Oversees and appoints project officer for establishment and implementation of Environmental Scanning process as described above, 4a.

(2) Coordinates Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options Validation Panel meetings. Ensures appropriate SME, both clinical and research, are prepared to discuss the option being reviewed. Ensure Validation Panel members receive read ahead material prior to the meeting and that sufficient attendance is expected to render a proper, informed recommendation.

e. Navy Medicine Regional Commanders

(1) Collaborate with Special Assistant, BUMED-M00RD by providing research and/or clinical SME to participate in Validation Panels as requested.

(2) Collaborates with Special Assistant, BUMED-M00WII to disseminate information regarding approved advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options to MTF commanders, commanding officers and officers in charge, and assists in identification and resolution access to care barriers.

f. MTF Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge

(1) Ensures top-down leadership involvement, visibility, and support for connecting eligible wounded warriors to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options.

(2) Ensures clinicians and case managers are aware of approved advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options.

(3) Ensures clinicians and case managers educate patients who may be eligible for an approved advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options and document this in the electronic medical record.

g. Specialty Leaders

(1) Provide SMEs for participation in Validation Panel meetings as requested by Special Assistant, BUMED-M00WII and Injured or Special Assistant, BUMED-M00RD.

(2) Collaborate with Special Assistant, BUMED-M00WII to disseminate information regarding approved advanced diagnostic and therapeutic options to clinicians within their community as applicable and to identify and assist in resolution of access to care barriers.


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