



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-7300

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Ser M3/5/AT-20176
24 Oct 08

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

SUBJECT: Pregnancy Screening Prior to Receiving Anthrax Vaccine

Ref: (a) NAVADMIN 068/07
(b) MARADMIN 190/07
(c) BUMEDINST 6230.15A
(d) ALNAV 072/07
(e) DoD Anthrax Tri-Fold, 10 Sep 2007

Current Department of Defense (DoD) and Navy policy states pregnant women are medically exempt from receiving Anthrax vaccine. The purpose of this Memorandum is to ensure proper pregnancy screening is performed prior to administering the Anthrax vaccine.

References (a) through (d) provide the Navy and Marine Corps requirements for the proper administration of the anthrax vaccine. Medical Department personnel authorized to administer the anthrax vaccine shall continue to ensure personnel receiving vaccine are properly screened in accordance with references, in particular, women of child bearing age.

Commands administering the anthrax vaccine shall ensure females of child bearing age shall be asked about the possibility of pregnancy prior to receiving Anthrax immunizations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following question be used on any locally approved screening form: "Are you pregnant or is there any chance you could become pregnant during the next month?"

Immunization clinics and providers will display a prominent written sign directing women to alert the technician or provider if they think they might be pregnant. Commands will offer or make referral for pregnancy testing if there exist any doubts regarding pregnancy prior to any immunization. They will ensure that women who have questions or concerns regarding the Anthrax vaccine consult with their healthcare provider prior to receiving immunization.

Pregnant women should only be vaccinated against Anthrax in unusual circumstances if potential benefits of vaccinations outweigh the potential risk. Commands administering the anthrax vaccine shall provide a copy of the most current DoD Anthrax Tri-Fold (reference (e)) to personnel prior to administering the Anthrax vaccine. Additional information regarding the anthrax vaccine, such as the education tool kit and resource center for healthcare providers, can be found at the MILVAX Anthrax vaccine website: www.anthrax.mil. Medical department personnel responsible for administering the vaccine should monitor this website for the latest information regarding the vaccine.

SUBJECT: Pregnancy Screening Prior to Receiving Anthrax Vaccine

The Anthrax vaccine immunization program remains a commander's Force Protection responsibility. Medical department personnel shall assist their commanders in complying with this responsibility by ensuring they identify, screen, and educate service members, DoD civilians and DoD contractors be vaccinated prior to administering the anthrax vaccine, and shall ensure appropriate medical evaluations for any vaccine-related adverse event.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. M. Robinson, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'R'.

A. M. ROBINSON, JR.