

SUSNFS Submission – Fall 98



In the last SUSNFS I provided some information on the new alcohol treatment levels. Here is some further information. It may seem that the primary diagnoses we emphasize are alcohol abuse and dependence. This is because the majority (85%) of waiver requests we see are for alcohol, and only a small percentage of them are done correctly.

Again, the alcohol treatment facilities/centers have transitioned from the old Level I, II, and III (with which most of us are familiar), to a new program which emphasizes the aftercare period.

The new treatment levels are:

Level 0.5: IMPACT – a several day educational course for members with an alcohol related incident or diagnosed with mild abuse

Level 1: OUTPATIENT - for those diagnosed with alcohol abuse*

Level 2: INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT - for those diagnosed with alcohol dependence*

Level 3: DORMITORY - for junior enlisted who are assigned to a barracks with a “buddy” system

Level 4: INPATIENT (Medical Ward) - for those at risk of withdrawal - when cleared transferred to the appropriate level

*Please note that although Level 1 and 2 are designated for abuse and dependence respectively, the level to which the member is assigned depends on the intake evaluation performed at the ATF. For example, a member with definite alcohol dependence who has admitted their problem and has been working their program through Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) may only do Level 1, whereas a severe abuser in denial of their problem may receive Level 2.

CAVEAT: We have found that some members with a diagnosis of mild abuse may only be recommended for Level 0.5. ***THIS IS NOT ADEQUATE TREATMENT FOR AVIATION PERSONNEL*** given the stricter aftercare requirements and the requirement for abstinence. They must receive at least Level 1.

Some staff in the alcohol treatment programs are unaware of the requirement for abstinence and three years aftercare for aviation personnel. Please stop by your ATF and ensure they are familiar with BUMEDINST 5300.8 and the NOMI message (MSG/NAOMI – 42/26JUN97) addressing the *Disposition Of Rehabilitated Alcohol Dependent Or Abuser Aircrew, Air Traffic Controllers, Hypobaric Inside Observers, And Instructors*. The only change not in this instruction and message is the modification of treatment levels from the older levels. Follow the above guidelines.

Also, please ensure that any member you evaluate receives a copy of the waiver requirements. The member’s letter requesting the waiver should address their unqualified acceptance of their diagnosis and their commitment to abstinence.

To review the waiver package requirements please review the waiver guide which can be found on the NOMI web site (www.nomi.navy.mil).

If in doubt about an alcohol waiver package or any psych question, please call us or email us.
You can reach us through the web site or our email addresses:

CDR Mittauer: code210@nomi.med.navy.mil

CAPT Wear-Finkle: code211@nomi.med.navy.mil

CDR Ellis code213@nomi.med.navy.mil

We have found that email works great as there is no frustration resulting from playing terminal phone tag or concern about time zones.