



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO

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Ser M3/07UM33215
30 Nov 07

Dear Healthcare Provider,

A recent review of the most current public health statistics for our active duty (AD) Sailors and Marines indicate an alarming trend in unintended consequences from sexual risk taking. These include two out of three pregnancies that were not planned and an HIV infection seroconversion rate among AD Sailors at about twice the rate observed within the other three services. The data indicated lack of contraceptive use was a major factor in these results.

These results are concerning and as an organization we would like to have a positive impact on the sexual health of our AD Sailors and Marines. To facilitate this effort, we consulted the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force and several other professional medical associations for their recommended evidence-based health care practices.

My strongest recommendation is for every healthcare provider practicing in primary care settings to speak with their adult and adolescent patients about their sexual health. I recommended the provider take this opportunity as appropriate to the circumstances. Because this can be a sensitive issue for both the healthcare provider and the patient to broach, a user-friendly sexual risk assessment guide is provided in Enclosure 1. This guide is also available at the following web sites:

http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/downloads/hp/PHA_sexual_risk_assessment.pdf
<http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/index.htm>

Our goal is a safe and healthy force. To help meet this goal, please include sexual risk behavior assessments in your discussions as appropriate. Thank you for helping our AD Sailors and Marines "chart a safe course."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. R. Cullison", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

T. R. CULLISON
Rear Admiral, Medical Corps
Deputy Surgeon General

Enclosures: 1. Brief Counseling Guide for Sexual Risk Assessment and Intervention