

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: Policy for the Use of Lyme Disease Vaccine

1. In the basic correspondence the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) endorses the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to provide Lyme disease vaccine to certain beneficiaries of the Military Health System. The memo and information paper are available at <<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/policy/ha99pol/clin9930.htm>>. Additional educational material on Lyme disease is available at <<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ento/LymeFact.doc>>.

2. Lyme disease vaccine is not recommended as a routine vaccine for soldiers as Lyme disease incidence is extremely low. The decision to administer Lyme disease vaccine should be based on an assessment of individual risk, which depends on a person's likelihood of being bitten by *Borrelia burgdorferi*-infected ticks. The vaccine should be considered for occupational groups of military members and/or Department of Defense civilian employees whose duties result in frequent or prolonged exposure to tick-infested habitats in areas of high or moderate risk for Lyme disease. It is recommended that Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) develop local policies based on the specific Lyme disease risk in their region.

3. COL Engler (WRAMC) has developed an excellent Lyme disease vaccine information sheet (VIS, copy attached), helpful for patients and health care providers, for use in the NARMC. This VIS also contains information on SmithKline Beecham's Vaccine Pregnancy Registry and Patient Reminder Program. RMC Preventive Medicine Chiefs have electronic copies of the VIS that can be easily adapted for regional/local use.

4. POC for this memo is COL Withers, Preventive Medicine Staff Officer, at DSN 761-3160 or Commercial (703) 681-3160.

Encl

KEVIN C. KILEY
Brigadier General, MC
Deputy Chief of Staff for
Operations, Health Policy
and Services

DASG-HS-PM (40)

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CF (w/encls):

HQDA (DASG-HS-PM), 5109 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA

22041-3258

Commander, 18th Medical Command, APO AP 96205-0054

Director, National Guard Bureau, (ATTN: Surgeon)

111 South George Mason Arlington, VA 22204-1382

Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, (ATTN: Surgeon)

1401 Deshler Street South West, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000

Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command,

(ATTN: Surgeon), 7 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000

Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, (ATTN: Surgeon)

Fort McPherson, GA 30330-6000

Commander, U.S. Army Material Command, (ATTN: AMCSG)

5001 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22333-0001

Commander, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command,

Park Center IV, 4501 Ford Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-1458

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1. HA recently issued a memo establishing DOD policy for the use of Lyme Disease Vaccine. The memo basically endorses ACIP recommendations and translates this into DOD-specific guidance.
2. In our endorsement, we have added an info sheet developed by COL Engler at the NERMC, which other RMCs may adapt and use. As I distribute this endorsement, I will also send the NERMC paper to RMC PM Officers via email.
3. Given the limited usefulness of Lyme vaccine for DOD beneficiaries, minimal budgetary impact is anticipated.
4. Recommend BG Kiley sign attached endorsement.