



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-C

OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 04-001

23 Feb 04

Expires: 23 February 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Policy and Instructions for Tattoo Treatment

1. References:

a. Army Regulation (AR) 670-1, 1 Jul 02, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniform and Insignia.

b. Message dated 261334Z Mar 03, DAPE-HR-IRPD, Subject: Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, AR 670-1.

c. Memorandum dated 9 Jun 99, MCHO-CL-C, Subject: Policy and Instructions for Tattoo Removal.

2. Purpose: To establish policy for medical treatment of tattoos on Soldiers by medical treatment facilities (MTF).

3. Proponent: The proponent for this policy is the Health Policy and Services Directorate.

4. Responsibilities:

a. MTF staff will provide Soldiers medical advice about tattoo treatment (removal or alteration) as required by AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Military Uniforms and Insignia, and HQDA message referenced above.

b. Commanders will furnish patient education materials on tattoo treatment to providers at all levels of medical care.

5. Policy:

a. MTFs are not required to treat tattoos. Each MTF may elect to attempt tattoo treatment at the commander's discretion. Provision of service will depend upon the availability of equipment and privileged personnel, as well as the length of time the Soldier will be available for treatments.

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- b. Priority for treatment will be Soldiers with tattoos prohibited by AR 670-1, 1 Jul 02.
- c. Because of the difficulty in removing large or multi-pigmented tattoos and the duration of treatments, the treating physician may attempt to remove only that portion of the tattoo that is offensive in nature or visible while wearing the Class A uniform.
- d. Tattoo treatment will not be performed in Korea or other areas where Soldiers are stationed for periods of less than one year.
- e. Hospital credentials committees must complete appropriate provider privileging actions at the local MTF prior to beginning the treatment of any tattoos.
- f. Soldiers who were already being treated by the military for Command-directed tattoo removal on the effective date of this policy will have their treatment continued by the MTF, by referral to another MTF with available treatment services, or by referral to civilian sources.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


KENNETH L. FARMER, JR.
Major General
Chief of Staff