



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
2480 LLEWELLYN AVENUE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5800

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

30 July 2004

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 37

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

1. References.

a. Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care, 2004, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

b. MEDDAC Regulation 600-8-2, Competency Assessment, 23 Mar 04.

c. MEDDAC/DENTAC/VS Regulation 750-1, Maintenance of Medical Equipment, 10 Sep 02.

2. Medical equipment are tools used to sustain and monitor patients' lives, diagnose and treat illnesses, and prevent suffering. When medical equipment is used improperly, it can also pose a hazard to patients, family members and staff. All patient care providers practicing in Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center are responsible for the safe operation of the medical equipment they use.

3. Every item of medical equipment used on the premises of this medical treatment facility (MTF) must be technically inspected by Medical Maintenance Branch before its initial use. This includes all medical equipment brought into any of the MTF's activities by staff, visiting healthcare providers and vendors. It includes all equipment that is acquired for permanent use, that is being demonstrated, that is on temporary loan to the MTF, or that is being leased or is under some other kind of contract for use.

4. User maintenance is an integral part of ensuring medical equipment functions correctly before daily use. Each clinic chief and noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) will ensure that their clinic has an operating manual for each item of medical equipment used in the clinic, and that user maintenance is performed in accordance with those manuals.

5. All medical equipment users will be trained on the operating procedures, capabilities and limitations of all medical equipment they use, or may be required to use, in their duties. The clinic chief or NCOIC will ensure this training is provided.

6. Each clinic chief and NCOIC will ensure that their employee's competency-based checklists are kept current in the employees' competency assessment files in accordance with MEDDAC Reg 600-8-2, for each item of medical equipment the employees operate, or may be expected to operate, in the performance of their duties. Employees will be taught the proper use of medical equipment as part of their initial training.

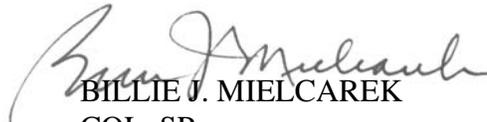
MCXR-Z

SUBJECT: Policy Statement No. 37, Medical Equipment

7. All requests to procure new medical equipment will be routed through the NCOIC, Medical Maintenance Branch, who will recommend approval or disapproval based on an evaluation of the equipment's maintenance requirements.

8. Medical equipment that is deemed to be not economically repairable. If the NCOIC, Medical Maintenance Branch, deems an item of medical equipment to be not economically repairable by the branch, the approving authority for a waiver to procure replacement equipment, if that equipment falls below the threshold for medical care support equipment (MEDCASE) purchases, is the Chief, Logistics Division. I am the approving authority for all equipment that qualifies as MEDCASE purchases.

9. For training assistance and additional information regarding this policy, contact Medical Maintenance Branch at 7-8407.


BILLIE J. MIELCAREK
COL, SP
Commanding

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