



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

AUG 28 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

SUBJECT: Dental Readiness Within The Services

References: (a) HA Policy Memorandum 96-023
(b) HA Policy Memorandum 02-011
(c) DoDI 6025.19

This policy memorandum supersedes and cancels Health Affairs (HA) Policy memorandum 96-023, dated January 26, 1996, Dental Readiness Within the Services.

In the Policy on Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications (HA Policy 02-011), the Service Dental Corps Chiefs agreed on a common methodology for applying the dental readiness standards within the Services. This gives us an opportunity to use the readiness standard as a comparable metric with which the dental readiness of individuals and military units can be accurately assessed, and allows for longitudinal reporting and data analysis.

A Service member is in Class 4 status when the periodic exam is overdue. This Department policy on Class 4 status is in alignment with the Individual Medical Readiness Instruction (Department of Defense Instruction 6025.19). In application of this policy, an exam is overdue and the Service member would convert to a dental Class 4 status if the exam is not accomplished within three months following the due month. This policy will promote uniformity, but will allow the flexibility required among the Services in the application of the dental classification standard. The Services may mandate a stricter Service-specific dental exam periodicity requirement for assigning personnel to dental Class 4 status.

My point of contact on this matter is Col Gary Martin, the Senior Consultant for Dentistry, who may be reached at (703) 681-0039 or gary.martin@tma.osd.mil.

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HA POLICY: 07-017