



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

OCT 4 2002

FROM: AFMOA/CC
110 Luke Avenue, Room 405
Bolling AFB, DC 20032-7050

SUBJECT: Discontinue Requirement to Notify Dental Clinic of Patients Diagnosed with
Infectious Diseases

Effective immediately, the requirement for Public Health to notify the dental clinic of patients diagnosed with an infectious disease has been discontinued. After balancing the risk to our dental staff with the need to protect patient privacy, I have decided it is time to discontinue this requirement. All dental clinics are effectively using Standard Universal Precautions and the knowledge that a patient has an infectious disease does not change this process. All dental clinic staff must continue to be vigilant reporting any exposure to blood and/or body fluids to ensure adequate investigation and follow-up of these incidents.

An interim message change will be initiated for AFI 47-101, *Managing Air Force Dental Services*, to delete this requirement and no reference to this former requirement will be made in the new AFI 48-105, *Surveillance, Prevention, and Control of Diseases and Conditions of Public Health or Military Significance*, when it is published.

My points of contact for this issue are Col Shannon Mills, AFMOA/SGZC, 110 Luke Avenue, Room 405, Bolling AFB, DC 20032, DSN 297-4402 or (202) 767-4402, e-mail: shannon.mills@pentagon.af.mil, and Col Deneice L. Van Hook, AFMOA/SGZ/O, DSN 297-4286 or (202) 767-4286, e-mail: deneice.vanhook@pentagon.af.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary H. Murray".

GARY H. MURRAY, Brig Gen, USAF, DC
Commander
Air Force Medical Operations Agency
Office of the Surgeon General

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