



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND  
2050 WORTH ROAD  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

MCHO-CL-H

OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 09-029

26 MAY 2009

Expires 26 May 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 68X, Mental Health Specialist Utilization

1. References.

- a. Department of the Army Pamphlet 611-21, Personnel Selection and Classification Military Occupational Classification and Structure, 31 Mar 99.
- b. The Joint Commission, Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The Official Handbook, 2009.
- c. The Joint Commission, Standards for Mental Health Care, 2009.
- d. The Joint Commission, Standards for Ambulatory Care, 2009.

2. Purpose. To provide clarification and authority in the utilization of MOS 68X, Mental Health Specialists.

3. Proponent. The proponent for this policy is HQ MEDCOM, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Health Policy and Services, ATTN: MCHO-CL-H.

4. Policy.

a. Mental Health Specialist must maintain both clinical and administrative skills to provide the best care for our Soldiers in a deployed environment. Medical treatment facility (MTF)-based assignments, working under the close supervision of credentialed behavioral health (BH) providers, allow for maintenance of skill proficiency.

b. MTF Commanders will ensure that assigned Mental Health Specialists maintain proficiency in major clinical and administrative duties through the close supervision of BH professionals (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical Social Workers.)

c. Major clinical and administrative duties include:

- (1) Managing inpatient and outpatient BH activities during peacetime and deployment.

\*This policy supercedes OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 07-013, 26 Apr 07, subject as above.

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(2) Assisting in the treatment of patients with BH problems that include substance abuse, psychiatric illness, sexual assault, domestic violence, social issues and organizational issues.

(3) Collecting and recording psychosocial and physical data.

5. Responsibilities.

a. When appropriate supervision and The Joint Commission (TJC), requirements are in place, MOS 68X Mental Health Specialists can and should be utilized in all clinical aspects of behavioral healthcare service delivery.

b. All MTF activities utilizing MOS 68X in a behavioral healthcare capacity (e.g., psychiatry, psychology, and social work services) will ensure that clinical and administrative duties are performed in the assigned positions.

6. Procedures.

a. Activities with assigned MOS 68X, Mental Health Specialists will review existing policy and procedures related to their utilization.

b. Activities will continue to execute and document required TJC standards associated with Mental Health Specialists' utilization. Specifically, three requirements must exist to meet TJC standards.

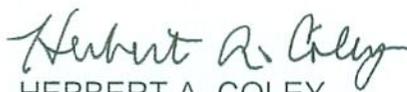
(1) Under supervision by a fully licensed, privileged, and credentialed provider.

(2) Engaged in ongoing in-service and other education and training to increase skill set capabilities.

(3) Engaged in ongoing, periodic competency evaluation.

7. Point of contact is COL Samuel G. Mack, Chief, Behavioral Health Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Health Policy and Services, DSN 471-6499 or Commercial (210) 221-6499.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
HERBERT A. COLEY  
Chief of Staff