DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY MEDCIAL COMMAND
2748 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCCG

05 NOV 2012

MEMORANDUM THRU COMMANDERS, MEDCOM REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMANDS

FOR COMMANDERS, MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES

SUBJECT: Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs (DoD/VA) Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) and Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Clinical Preventive Services (CPS)

1. As the MEDCOM Commander, I am committed to improving healthcare quality and outcomes by promoting evidence-based practice wherever and whenever possible. Several strategic initiatives embedded in our Army Medicine Balanced Score Card reference VA/DoD CPG's and USPSTF CPS guidelines as key elements of evidence-based practice.

2. The VA/DoD CPGs are developed using a rigorous systematic review of the best medical evidence to help primary care providers and healthcare teams deliver consistent, high-quality evidence-based healthcare to our patients. These CPGs may differ from national and specialty guidelines because they are based entirely on evidence collected by unbiased third parties. The guidelines are developed by multidisciplinary clinical experts representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and VA. VA/DoD CPG development adheres to the criteria of the Institute of Medicine's report on credible CPGs. Consistent use of evidence-based CPGs has been shown to decrease undesired variation, lower medical error rates, improve healthcare outcomes, and increase patient and provider satisfaction. CPG adherence and full implementation is a proven driver toward consistent standards and improved outcomes, and as such will minimize much of the variance currently present in our healthcare delivery.

3. The USPSTF CPS guidelines are the industry standard for CPG screening of asymptomatic individuals. We track several cancer screening tests using the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set definitions and benchmarks.

4. Please take this opportunity to re-energize your CPG teams and Preventive Medicine activities throughout your Medical Treatment Facilities and Patient Centered Medical Homes and reinforce the critical importance of these evidence-based tools to your staff. A CPG implementation manual, "Putting Practice Guidelines to Work in the Military Health System: A Guide for Action" can be download from the Quality Management website: https://www.QMO.amedd.army.mil. The USPSTF CPS

reference, "Guide to Clinical Preventive Services" is available through the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research website at: http://www.ahrq.gov/.

5. My point of contact for evidence-based practice and the VA/DoD CPGs is Mr. Ernest Degenhardt, Chief, Evidence-Based Practice MEDCOM, Quality Management Division, (210) 221-6527, DSN 471 or email Ernest.Degenhardt@amedd.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

PATRICIA D. HOROHO
Lieutenant General
The Surgeon General and
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM