



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-Q

27 MAR 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM MAJOR SUBORDINATE  
COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Standardized "Do Not Use" Medical Abbreviations List

1. References:

- a. US Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) Regulation 40-41, The Patient Safety Program, 14 Jan 02.
- b. Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, Hospital Accreditation Standards Manual, 2007.

2. Effective immediately the most current list of TJC "do not use" abbreviations is the AMEDD corporate standard.

3. Background:

- a. The Joint Commission (TJC) National Patient Safety Goal #2B requires accredited organizations to have a standardized list of abbreviations, acronyms, symbols, and dose designations that must not be used throughout the organization.
- b. When this patient safety goal was first published in 2004, TJC required facilities to include an additional three, locally identified abbreviations to the standard "do not use" list. Current TJC standards no longer require the additional three abbreviations. The requirement for a facility to self-select additional abbreviations for a locally specific "do not use" list was removed due to recognition that healthcare staff move from facility to facility, potentially resulting in confusion regarding which abbreviations are on the "do not use" list at any given location.
- d. For accreditation purposes, TJC official "do not use" list applies, at a minimum, to all handwritten orders and medication-related documentation, including free-text computer entry, or on pre-printed forms. Failure to substantially eliminate the utilization of "do not use" abbreviations in medication orders remains nationally one of the most frequently cited standard found out of compliance during TJC surveys.

4. MTFs may submit recommendations to add abbreviations to the corporate "do not use" list. Local adverse event and/or near miss reporting data, or similar supporting data, will be included with requests for additions to the list.

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5. This memorandum is interim guidance pending revision of reference 1a. 40-41. Point of contact is LTC Robert Durkee, MEDCOM Patient Safety Center, at (210) 221-6622, DSN 471-6622, or [robert.durkee@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.durkee@us.army.mil).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
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