



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-Q

30 DEC 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Compliance with MEDCOM Circular 40-17, Surgical/Procedural Site Verification

1. Reference: MEDCOM Circular 40-17, Surgical/Procedural Site Verification, 28 March 2005.
2. Background: The Army Medical Department continues to experience sentinel events due to wrong site surgeries/procedures. Root cause analyses consistently find non-compliance with the procedures outlined in MEDCOM Circular 40-17.
3. Operating surgeons will mark the surgical site prior to moving the patient to the operative or procedural area, prior to the administration of regional anesthesia, and prior to the administration of preoperative medications that may alter the level of consciousness or orientation of the patient.
4. MEDCOM Circular 40-17 is designed to reflect requirements of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) Universal Protocol. In some cases, this policy is stricter than the JCAHO Universal Protocol. Where there are differences between the two, the stricter standard/policy will be followed.
5. Points of contact for this policy are MAJ Robert Durkee and COL Doreen Lounsbery at (210) 221-6195.


KEVIN C. KILEY
Lieutenant General, MC
Commanding

CF:
Commander, 18th MEDCOM