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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

18 DEC 2006

MCHO-CL-Q

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Root Cause Analysis of Suicides in the Outpatient Setting

1. References:

a. Army Regulation 40-68, Clinical Quality Management, 26 February 2004.

b. 2006 Accreditation Manuals, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

2. Background: Root Cause Analyses are currently required for all JCAHO reviewable sentinel events to include suicides in an inpatient setting or within 72 hours of discharge from an inpatient setting. Limiting these reviews to suicides related to inpatient care limits our ability to identify opportunities to improve outpatient behavioral healthcare.

3. Effective immediately, Root Cause Analyses will be performed on all cases of suicide where the individual was seen in behavioral heath clinics within two weeks of the event. A copy of root cause analyses will be forwarded to the Patient Safety Office, Quality Management Division, Health Policy and Services Directorate.

4. Points of contact are COL Elspeth Ritchie, Health Policy and Services, (703) 681-1975, or email: elspeth.ritchie@amedd.army.mil; and LTC Robert Durkee, MEDCOM Patient Safety Center, commercial 210-221-6622, DSN 471-6622, or email: Robert Durkee@amedd.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

WILLIAM H. THRESHER
Chief of Staff