



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

SEP 29 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Centrally Funded Influenza Pandemic Response Materiel Guidance

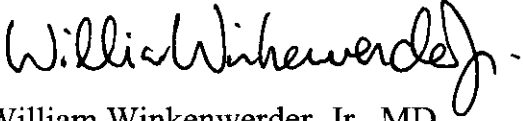
The Military Health System must be prepared to respond to an influenza pandemic. I believe it is prudent to purchase and store certain items of materiel at military medical treatment facilities (MTF) and selected intermediate storage sites. Consequently, approximately \$7.9 million has been provided to the Services to allow MTFs to purchase and store five personal protection items to protect personnel who may have direct patient contact in the event of a pandemic. We have initiated a central purchase of approximately \$24.5 million of antibiotics as recommended by the Services' infectious disease consultants for distribution to select MTFs and intermediate storage sites (see attached spreadsheet).

The MTF commanders will have operational control of the PPE and antibiotics stored at their sites. Similarly, the four intermediate storage site commanders will control antibiotics held at those sites, but release authority will be exercised by the combatant commander that each site supports.

These centrally purchased assets are not to be used for routine care cost avoidance. They are intended specifically to respond to a pandemic or other public health emergency. As such, medical materiel managers at the MTFs and intermediate storage sites must plan to rotate this materiel as part of normal operational use or apply reverse distribution programs to minimize items from expiring and minimize sustainment costs. The stock levels established are safety levels for this materiel and must not be reduced. When stocks become unserviceable or are below these safety levels, Services will take appropriate action to replace the items. In addition, use the Food and Drug Administration Shelf Life Extension Program aggressively to reduce replacement costs.

To ensure proper tracking and reporting of capabilities to respond to a pandemic, these centrally purchased items shall be reported in the Joint Medical Asset Repository.

My point of contact for your questions is LTC Scott Svabek, (703) 845-8348 or Scott.Svabek@ha.osd.mil.


William Winckenwerder, Jr., MD

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense)
Directors, J-3 and J-4
Joint Staff Surgeon
Service Surgeons General
Medical Officer of the Marine Corps

