

ALARACT 062/2011

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THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER
ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//DASG-HSZ/DAMO-DASG//

THIS ALARACT MESSAGE IS BEING SENT ON BEHALF OF THE SURGEON GENERAL//

SUBJECT: ALARACT CHANGES TO LENGTH OF AUTHORIZED DURATION OF
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTIONS IN MEDCOM REGULATION 40-51

REF/A/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ACT OF 1970//

REF/B/ MEDCOM REGULATION 40-51/MEDICAL REVIEW OFFICERS AND REVIEW OF
POSTIVE URINALYSIS DRUG TESTING RESULTS//

REF/C/OTSG/MEDCOM POLICY MEMO 10-076/PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
POLYPHARMACY/09NOV10//

1. (U) PURPOSE: TO INFORM MEDICAL PROVIDERS, COMMANDERS, AND SOLDIERS
OF CHANGES IN MEDCOM REGULATION 40-51, WHICH WILL IDENTIFY NEW
REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZED DURATION OF USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
PRESCRIPTIONS.

2. (U) BACKGROUND:

2.A. (U) THE ARMY HEALTH PROMOTION, RISK REDUCTION, SUICIDE PREVENTION
REPORT RECOMMENDED LIMITING THE PERIOD OF TIME FOR APPROPRIATE USE OF
ANY PRESCRIPTION TO ONE YEAR.

2.B. (U) FEDERAL REGULATIONS LIMIT THE DURATION OF CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTIONS TO SIX-MONTHS (E.G., A PRESCRIPTION MUST BE
FILLED WITHIN SIX-MONTHS OF THE DATE THE PRESCRIPTION IS WRITTEN).

3. (U) EXECUTION:

3.A. (U) MEDCOM REGULATION 40-51 WILL BE REVISED LIMITING THE DURATION
OF AUTHORIZED USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTIONS.

3.B. (U) PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (SCHEDULES II-V) WILL
HAVE AN AUTHORIZED USE OF SIX-MONTHS FROM DATE OF DISPENSING.

4. (U) RESPONSIBILITIES:

4.A. (U) MEDICAL PROVIDERS WILL PRESCRIBE ONLY THE MINIMUM QUANTITY OF
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES NECESSARY TO TREAT AN ACUTE ILLNESS OR INJURY.
QUANTITIES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES USED TO TREAT ACUTE CONDITIONS
WILL NOT EXCEED A 30-DAY SUPPLY. PROVIDERS WILL ROUTINELY ASSESS THE
PATIENT FOR MEDICATION EFFECTIVENESS AND ADVERSE EVENTS.

4.B. (U) PROVIDERS USING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE MEDICATIONS TO TREAT
CHRONIC CONDITIONS MAY PRESCRIBE A 30-DAY SUPPLY OF MEDICATION WITH UP

TO 5-REFILLS. PROVIDERS SHOULD SCHEDULE FREQUENT, BRIEF CLINICAL VISITS WITH THE PATIENT TO ASSESS MEDICATION COMPLIANCE, PATIENT BEHAVIORS, THE POTENTIAL FOR OVERMEDICATION, AND DRUG DIVERSION OR ABUSE.

4.C. (U) MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY OR CLINIC STAFF WILL EDUCATE SOLDIERS ON THE LIMITATIONS FOR AUTHORIZED USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

4.D. (U) SOLDIERS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTIONS WILL HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE AND THAT A POSITIVE URINALYSIS AFTER THE PRESCRIPTION EXPIRATION DATE MAY RESULT IN A "NO LEGITIMATE USE" FINDING.

5. (U) POCS:

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6. (U) EXPIRATION DATE: 60-DAYS AFTER REVISED MEDCOM REGULATION 40-51 IS PUBLISHED.