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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

FEB 16 1994

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

**SUBJECT:** Space Available Dental Care

A Program Decision Memorandum (PDM) dated 22 September 1992 directed the reduction in "medical expenditures through economies and efficiencies such as....reducing dependent dental care to 10 percent of total workload." We have worked closely with the Service Dental Chiefs regarding space available care, and significant reductions have been achieved subsequent to release of the PDM. A few clarifications regarding the application of the PDM are, however, still required. Therefore, I am providing further guidance through this memorandum.

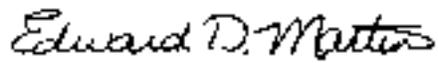
In order to ensure the readiness of active duty personnel, and in recognition of this primary mission of the Service Dental Corps, I request that you direct that space available care to other than active duty beneficiaries be limited to 10 percent of total workload. This amount of space available care will fulfill training program requirements and allow for dentists in the rotation base to maintain their skills. This 10 percent limit does not apply to dental emergency care, to the Preventive Dentistry Program for Children (PDPC), or to care provided for sponsored, eligible family members located OCONUS in areas where the Dependents' Dental Plan (DDP) is not available.

These exceptions to the 10 percent limit are necessary because dental emergency care is required by the law, and the PDPC is mandated by Department of Defense Instruction 6230.3 (children enrolled in the DDP are not eligible for the PDPC). Equally important, our only reasonable option to maintain the oral health of sponsored family members located OCONUS is to provide dental care for them within DoD clinics.

For family members eligible for the DDP, there is an expectation that enrollment in the DDP will be their mechanism for dental health. The PDPC will continue to be an excellent screening tool which will be helpful in encouraging sponsors to enroll their children in the DDP.

I am confident that application of this guidance will ensure that our resources are spent on our highest priority programs. Please ensure that this guidance is implemented immediately, and provide me a copy of your guidance

to the field on this matter.



Edward D. Martin, M.D.  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense

cc:

Surgeon General of the Army

Surgeon General of the Navy

Surgeon General of the Air Force

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Last update: 1/11/1999