



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH ARMY
UNIT #15236
APO AP 96205-5236

EACG

24 JUN. 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR All Commanders and Behavioral Health (BH) Providers Assigned to Eighth Army

SUBJECT: Eighth Army Command Policy Letter #21, Disposition of Discharged Patients for Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (IPU) with Suicidal Ideation and Attempts or Other High Risk Behaviors

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation 40-66, Medical Record Administration and Health Care Documentation, 17 June 2008 (Rapid Action Revision 002, 04 January 2010).
- b. ALARACT, 160/2010, Subject: VCSA Sends on Protected Health Information (PHI), 282049Z May 2010.
- c. Department of Defense Publication 6025.18-R, Department of Defense Health Information Privacy Regulation, 24 January 2003.
- d. Department of Defense Instruction 6490.08, Command Notification Requirements to Dispel Stigma in Providing Mental Health Care to Service Members, 17 August 2011.
- e. OTSG/MEDCOM Policy 12-015, 28 Feb 12, Subject: Command Notification Requirements to Dispel Stigma in Providing Behavioral Healthcare to Soldiers.

2. Purpose. To define the discharge and hand off procedures for IPU admitted patients with suicidal ideations or attempts or other high risk behaviors. To give guidance for BH providers regarding moderate or high risk patients with suicidal ideations or attempts or other high risk behaviors who cancel or miss outpatient appointments.

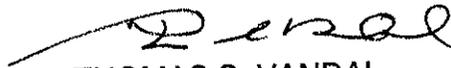
3. Scope. Discharge procedures for the BH staff and unit commanders to follow. Upon determining that a patient is admitted for a suicidal ideation or attempt attempts or other high risk behaviors and are ready for discharge from IPU:

- a. Behavioral Health (BH) providers shall notify and coordinate with the patient's company commander for hand off prior to release from the hospital, taking special care to provide the company commander only the minimum amount of information necessary to satisfy the disclosure's purpose.

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- b. Unit escort for the patient will be the company commander, or higher commander.
 - c. If patient outranks the company commander, an officer of higher rank than the patient must be part of the escort team.
4. Appointments. BH providers will use their discretion and, within seven days of a failed appointment, make contact with moderate and high risk patients who miss or cancel their appointments
5. Proponent. The proponent for this policy is the Eighth Army Surgeon Directorate at commercial 011-82-2-7913-4429 or DSN 315-723-4429.



THOMAS S. VANDAL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding