



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY PHYSICAL DISABILITY AGENCY
2530 CRYSTAL DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202

AHRC-DZA

21 October 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR Presidents, U.S. Army Physical Evaluation Boards

SUBJECT: Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) acceptance of Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) when in accord with Medical Command (MEDCOM) Standard

1. References.

- a. MEDCOM Supplement 1 to AR 40-400, 24 July 2009.
- b. DoDI 1332.38, Enclosure 4.
- c. AR 40-68.

2. Policy. Supplement 1, AR 40-400 specifies who may prepare the Narrative Summary (NARSUM) and clinical summary. Effective immediately, when the MEB contains a behavioral health diagnosis, the PEB will not instruct the MEB to provide additional psychiatric evaluation or testing when: the NARSUM is signed by a physician; the MEB documents include the information required in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) NARSUM format; and the DA 3947, MEB Proceedings, is signed by a psychiatrist. (Note: IDES NARSUM format also requires the MEB physician address any inconsistencies in diagnosis, or severity, created as a result of VA examinations.) For existing legacy cases, this will also include the associated Veterans Administration (VA) Worksheet. PDA assumes that when the Deputy Commander of Clinical Services (DCCS) approves the DA 3947, and when the NARSUM includes a physician signature, any non-physician provider preparing a clinical summary, or any physician addressing a behavioral health diagnosis, was practicing within their scope of privileges. See MEDCOM Supplement 1 to AR 40-400.

3. Discussion.

a. The Surgeon General TSG (Department of the Army), not PDA, sets the standards regarding the scope of practice for health care providers. This includes who may or may not perform which types of examinations (examination for diagnosis vs. treatment, etc). See: http://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/pdf/R40_68.PDF

b. MEDCOM Supplement 1 to AR 40-400, 24 July 2009 states that non-physician providers may prepare clinical summaries within their scope of privileges. When a non-physician provider prepares a clinical summary addressing the Soldier's behavioral health diagnoses, physician countersignature is required. This means that if a psychologist prepares a clinical summary, a physician must countersign the document. There is no requirement this physician be a

AHRC-DZA

SUBJECT: Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) acceptance of Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) when in accord with Medical Command (MEDCOM) Standard

psychiatrist. In lieu of physician countersignature on the clinical summary, the PEB will accept the MEB when the physician-signed NARSUM specifically references and incorporates the clinical summary.

//Original Signed//
JASON T. EVANS
Colonel, AG
Commanding