



TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Interface Development between the Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and the Pharmacy Data Transaction Service (PDTS)

1. Illicit use of prescription drugs is a growing concern in the United States. Department of Defense (DoD) military personnel are particularly at risk due to the increased need for pain management throughout the force.
2. This situation presents a particular challenge to the DoD drug testing system. Pursuant to DoD policy all positive drug tests that could be the result of licit prescription drug use must be reviewed by a Medical Review Officer (MRO). Because the greater majority of these positive results are ultimately determined to be negative by the MRO, it has been DoD policy to only require the laboratories to test 20% of their monthly work load for drugs that fall into this category. Scheduled I drugs that have no valid medical use, such as cocaine or marijuana, are tested at 100% work load.
3. LIMS data from Fiscal Year 2008 illustrates the depth of the problem. The six military laboratories tested a total of 4,610,152 specimens. Out of this number of specimens, the laboratories screened 961,646 for the prescription drug Oxycodone, or 21% of the work load in compliance with DoD drug testing policy. From these screened specimens 4,417 were confirmed positive by chromatography mass spectrometry. Based on that rate, if the total DoD workload had been screened for Oxycodone, 23,051 would have been reported positive. A review of the MRO results for Oxycodone during Fiscal Year 2008 would predict that only 6% or 1,383 would have been determined to be illicit use.
4. The challenge then is to maintain a drug testing program that serves as a strong deterrence against illicit drug use, while supporting a business model that does not overwhelm the production process.
5. Recently representatives from the DDRP and Pharmacy Informatics met to discuss a possible strategy for dealing with this situation. One possible approach would be to develop an automated matching between the LIMS drug screening results against the PDTS to eliminate those results that could be explained by valid prescription. The results from the database match would then be sent back to the LIMS for performing

confirmation analysis on the remaining specimens. In essence, this would be an "electronic MRO" review. The committee determined two areas of concern: privacy issues and the level of effort required by the respective information technology programs.

6. Language needs to be added to DoD Directive 1010.1 which states that the Secretary of Defense is delegating authority to the DoD Coordinator for Drug Enforcement Policy and Support (or other appropriate official) to use and disclose the protected health information of individuals who are Armed Forces personnel for purposes of the Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program.

7. A meeting will be scheduled between the Pharmacy database and LIMS subject matter experts to determine the level of effort that would be needed to develop an interface between the two systems. The meeting will also discuss the possibility of taking a retrospective look at Fiscal Year 2008 data to determine the effects of such an interface.



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