

## TALKING PAPER

### ON

#### ROLE OF MEDICS IN BUILDING A CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE CHOICES (CoRC):

#### THE SURGEON GENERAL'S TOOLKIT FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

**PURPOSE:** Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) provide recommended strategies for identification, screening, early intervention, treatment and prevention of substance misuse problems as part of Air Force's new CoRC program

**BACKGROUND:** MTF leadership support is essential for medics' involvement in CoRC

- From primary prevention to tertiary care, medics have a wide range of evidenced-based roles in CoRC across the spectrum of care
  - Level of involvement and plan implementation is determined by local needs/resources
  - Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) staff are subject matter experts for alcohol misuse/abuse/dependence and drug use
    - Primary mission is face-to-face prevention, brief interventions for alcohol misuse, and clinical care/treatment of alcohol and drug abuse/dependence
    - Involved with screening, personalized feedback, educational and motivationally-based groups, referral for care, and treatment
    - Active role in Community Action Information Board (CAIB)/Integrated Delivery System (IDS) and other community prevention planning efforts
  - Drug Demand and Reduction (DDR) staff are drug use subject matter experts
    - Primary mission is detection, deterrence and prevention of drug use
    - Serve central role in use of drug testing sweeps and command-directed testing tools
    - Active role in community prevention planning efforts; CAIB/IDS involvement valuable
- Primary Care Clinics are ideal venue for meaningful detection, early intervention and referral
  - Physicians refer 11% of patients with alcohol dependence for additional care only (NEJM)\*

- Good evidence for screening and brief behavioral counseling for alcohol misuse (USPSTF)\*
  - Reduced alcohol consumption sustained for 6-12 months
  - Positive health outcomes attained four years post-intervention
- Behavioral Health Optimization of Primary Care provides another screening/early intervention opportunity
- Health and Wellness Centers will serve as conduits of prevention education resources

DELIVERABLES: SG Toolkit has four “Buckets” (comprising 72 files) of recommended prevention activities to enhance and support the MTF role in CoRC

- All 72 SG toolkit documents found at O:\CoRC SG Toolkit and include the following buckets
  - **Bucket 1:** Universal/Primary prevention through population level outreach and screening
  - **Bucket 2:** Selected/Secondary prevention through targeted, individualized, non-anonymous alcohol and drug screening at Primary Care/Flight Medicine during PHA and routine care
  - **Bucket 3:** Behavioral Health targeted prevention through assessment for alcohol related problems (misuse, abuse, and dependence) and drug use at all intakes
  - **Bucket 4:** Resources for ADAPT/DDR staff to use in their role as subject matter experts and as Commanders’ consultants

RECOMMENDATION: AF/SGO approve SG toolkit for inclusion in AF/CVA memo as part of multifunctional toolkit (toolkits from SG, HC, A1, A7, and PA) to be distributed to MAJCOM/CVs with distribution to all installations

\* (NJEM) is the New England Journal of Medicine/ (USPSTF) is the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force