



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

04/01/03

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ARMED FORCES
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD

SUBJECT: Population Health Improvement Metrics

Population health improvement has been and remains an important goal for the DoD, since maintaining the health of our people is the first element of support for force health protection and readiness. A major impediment to further investment by the Military Health System (MHS) in population health improvement has been the identification, development, and implementation of measures and metrics to quantify success.

In 2001, a team from Yale University on contract from the TRICARE Management Activity envisioned the Health Evaluation and Assessment Review as a key part of the effort to measure population health improvement. Others have more recently proposed metrics focusing on successful implementation of recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force as a best measure, although indirect, of population health improvement.

I request the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) review these suggestions and make recommendations on the best method for measuring population health improvement among DoD beneficiaries given the uniqueness of our beneficiary population and capabilities of the military health system. Specifically, the AFEB should 1) identify what performance measurements/metrics the MHS could use to best quantify improvement of individual and population health status; 2) identify best methodology to engage individuals to share responsibility for health maintenance and improvement.

I would like the Board to address this issue at the September 2003 AFEB meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David N. Tornberg".

David N. Tornberg, MD, MPH
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Clinical and Program Policy