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HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

22 OCT 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR: SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MEDICAL READINESS, J-4, THE JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Policy for the Use of Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine

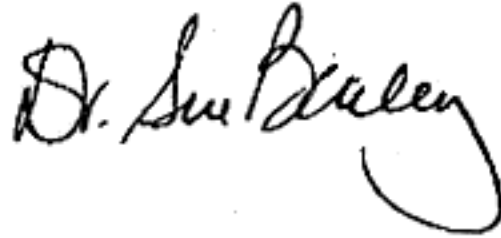
The Department of Defense policy shall be to use only inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) for the immunization of children against poliomyelitis within the Military Health System. The all-IPV schedule shall be implemented no later than January 1, 2000.

Per Service policy, all military accessions, officer candidates, and Reserve component personnel on initial active duty shall continue to receive a single dose of poliovirus vaccine. This adult booster dose meets the readiness requirement for potential travel to areas where poliomyelitis remains endemic. For individuals who have completed a primary vaccine series with IPV or oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV), either IPV or OPV may be used for the adult booster dose. An all-IPV schedule shall be used for military accessions and other adults that do not have a history of having completed a full primary series of poliovirus vaccine.

The Services should plan for a transition to the use of IPV for the adult booster dose as soon as practicable. The availability of OPV is expected to be limited in the future in the United States. While OPV remains available, however, either IPV or OPV may be used for the adult booster dose.

More detailed information may be found in the published recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Notice to Readers: Recommendations of the ACIP: Revised Recommendations for Routine Poliomyelitis Vaccination," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Vol. 48, No. 27, June 16, 1999, is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4827a4.htm>. These recommendations revise the recommendations in "Poliomyelitis Prevention in the United States: Introduction of a Sequential Vaccination Schedule of Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine Followed by Oral Poliovirus Vaccine: Recommendations of the ACIP" in MMWR, Vol. 46, No. RR-3, January 27, 1997, at <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00046568.htm>.

This policy shall be included in Service and Joint Staff plans and policies for immunization of military members and other health care beneficiaries. Any requests for additional funding to provide IPV should be forwarded through Service channels.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Sue Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr. Sue Bailey

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Last update: 12/10/1999