



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

MCIM

05 OCT 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: CHCS II and the AMEDD Role in Health Information Technology

1. Our experience to date with CHCS II has confirmed its great benefit to Army medicine. I fully embrace CHCS II as the corporate longitudinal electronic medical record, and I have directed my staff to accelerate its implementation and optimize its introduction into the delivery of healthcare.
2. The transition from interim applications and the effective implementation of CHCS II into each of your medical facilities requires your dedicated attention and enthusiastic support.
3. On 27 April 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13335 that established a National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and set a goal for the majority of Americans to have an interoperable electronic health record within ten years. The National Coordinator determined three initiatives as critical in meeting this goal: automating clinical practice, interconnecting care, and improving population health.
4. The Military Health System leads the Nation with its electronic health record system, both in the Composite Health Care System (CHCS) and improved in CHCS II. Recognizing our experience, the President directed the Department of Defense to report how it can advance the adoption of health information technology within the private sector and set the course in the adoption of industry standards.
5. The AMEDD developed interim applications, known collectively as HealtheForces, offer much-needed enhancements to clinical applications and reporting, but their utility is limited and their use temporary. CHCS II provides superior documentation, results retrieval, and global access and will continue to improve over time with the incorporation of HealtheForces-like capabilities.
6. Please keep me informed on your progress towards this goal.

KEVIN C. KILEY
Major General
Commanding