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RESCISSIONS

The following material is rescinded:

1. Manuals

M-2, Part IV, Chapter 8, dated October 23, 1990

CHAPTER 8. ALLERGEN THERAPY

8.01 POLICY

It is the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy to provide allergen therapy to all eligible veteran patients, when medically indicated.

8.01 ALLERGEN EXTRACTS

a. Source. Allergen extracts for testing and therapy are supplied by a centralized VA Program in cooperation with the United States (U.S.) Army, Walter Reed Army Medical Center through the United States Army Centralized Allergen Extracts Laboratory (USACAEL).

b. Administration. The program is administered by the Program Director for Allergy, at VA Lakeside Medical Center, Chicago, IL, in consultation with the VA Allergy Advisory Group.

c. Requests. All requests for allergen diagnostic or treatment extracts must come to the Program Director for Allergy. Only VA centers serviced by a Board Certified Allergist (or equivalent credentials as determined by the Program Director for Allergy) will be eligible for this program. All requests will be in a standard format as set out by VA and USACAEL.

8.02 SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF IMMUNOTHERAPY (IT)

a. Under past policy, self-administration of allergenic material was permitted in exceptional cases.

b. New policy dictates that under no circumstances will these potent extracts from VA and/or USACAEL be self-administered by the veteran patient. All allergen testing and treatment must be given by trained personnel in a setting where there is access to adequate measures to treat an anaphylactic reaction.

c. The certified allergist prescribing IT is responsible to ensure that the personnel administering IT in a VA medical center, VA outpatient clinic, or other outside setting, are adequately versed in this type of therapy and the treatment of adverse reactions, which rarely occur.