

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 16 -

LEAD MUSIC (:03)

THIS IS THE TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN, AN UPDATE ON THE LATEST NEWS TO HELP YOU MAKE THE BEST USE OF YOUR TRICARE BENEFIT. I'M AUSTIN CAMACHO (:10)

THIS WEEK: DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION OFFICE WORKS TO PROTECT OUR SERVICE MEMBERS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES FROM THE DAMAGE DRUG MISUSE CAN CAUSE. DOD IS DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB KEEPING THE FORCE DRUG FREE, ACCORDING TO CAPT KEVIN KLETTE, DIRECTOR OF THE DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM. HE BASES THAT ON THE RATE OF POSITIVE RESULTS IN THE DRUG TESTING PROGRAM AND THE AMOUNT OF USE SELF-REPORTED BY MILITARY PERSONNEL. (:24)

(2:07) “FROM 1980 TO 2005 BOTH THOSE INDICATORS HAVE DROPPED DRAMATICALLY FROM 30% FOR THE SELF REPORTED USE OF DRUGS DOWN TO WELL LESS THAN 2% AND THE PERCENT POSITIVE RATE AT THE SAME TIME HAS REDUCED FROM ABOUT 7 AND A HALF % AND IT’S WELL LESS THAN 1% NOW. (:26)

HIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN PROACTIVE IN CHANGING THE PANEL OF TESTED DRUGS TO INCLUDE NEW DRUGS THAT BECOME POPULAR. (:06)

(3:24) “FOR INSTANCE IN THE 1994-95 TIMEFRAME ECSTASY CAME OVER FROM EUROPE AND BECAME RAMPANT IN THE UNITED STATES AND WE WERE RIGHT ON BOARD. WE FORECAST THAT REALLY WELL AND STARTED ECSTASY TESTING. WE’VE DONE SIMILAR THINGS WITH LSD AND OXYCODONE WE MOST RECENTLY ADDED TO THE PANEL OF DRUGS.”(:26)

NEW DRUGS PRESENT A CHALLENGE BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO TEST FOR, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE COMBINATION DRUGS LIKE SPICE. (:07)

(5:36) "IT COULD BE A MIXTURE OF SEVERAL, PROBABLY UP TO 10 DIFFERENT CANNABANOID OR MARIJUANA-LIKE COMPOUNDS THAT VARY IN POTENCY. SO BECAUSE IT'S NEW THERE'S NO STANDARDS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO CONFIRM THOSE DRUGS WITH." (:23)

HE SAID IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVERY COMBINATION CALLED SPICE TO BE SCHEDULED AS AN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN MILITARY LEADERS CAN'T STOP MEMBERS FROM USING IT.(:11)

(8:40) "THEY NEED TO USE THEIR EXISTING SERVICE REGULATIONS THAT PROHIBIT THE USE OF SPICE AND SPICE-LIKE COMPOUNDS. ALL THE SERVICES HAVE REGULATIONS THAT PROHIBIT THAT USE WHICH IS BASED PRIMARILY ON DOD

INSTRUCTION 1010.4 WHICH ALSO PROHIBITS THE USE OF
COMPOUNDS THAT ARE USED WRONGFULLY. (:22)

CAPT KLETTE SAYS THOSE REGULATIONS ARE ENOUGH TO GET
MILITARY MEMBERS SEPARATED FROM THEIR SERVICE, BUT IN
SOME UNITS THEY GO EVEN FARTHER. (:08)

(10:07) THE MARINE CORPS AND THE ARMY HAVE TAKEN TO
WRITING DIRECT ORDERS, STANDING ORDERS IN SPECIFIC
MAJOR COMMANDS THAT PROHIBIT SPECIFICALLY THE USE AND
POSSESSION OF SPICE AND OTHER CHEMICALS WHERE THE USE
IS WRONGFUL. (:17)

WHILE DETERRENCE IS IMPORTANT, CAPT KLETTE SAYS
BENEFICIARY EDUCATION IS EQUALLY VITAL. (:05)

(11:23) A LOT MORE EFFORT NEEDS TO BE SPENT ON
CONDUCTING AWARENESS TRAINING WHICH IS A PREVENTION-
TYPE ISSUE. MILITARY MEMBERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THIS
IS A VERY UNSAFE PRODUCT TO USE. (:19)

HE SAYS SPICE IS SO DANGEROUS BECAUSE THE 10 DIFFERENT SYNTHETIC OPIATES USED CAN VARY DRAMATICALLY IN POTENCY. (:08)

(16:47) WHAT YOU SEE IN A BAG OF SPICE OR SPICE-LIKE PRODUCT IS NOT NECESSARILY WHAT YOU GET. IT DOESN'T HAVE A LIST OF INGREDIENTS, DOESN'T TELL YOU WHICH OF THE 10 IT HAS OR COMBINATIONS, YOU MAY HAVE, ONE DAY, A BAG THAT GIVES YOU THE EFFECTS OF A NORMAL MARIJUANA USE AS RECREATIONAL BUT THEN AGAIN YOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING THAT'S HUNDREDS OF TIMES MORE POTENT AND CAN LEAD TO DEATH. (:28)

TRICARE SUPPORTS THE DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION OFFICE BY COVERING DETOXIFICATION, REHABILITATION, OUTPATIENT GROUP THERAPY AND FAMILY THERAPY WHEN NEEDED. BUT CAPT KLETTE SAYS THE BEST PLAN IS TO AVOID DRUGS SO YOU NEVER NEED THOSE SERVICES. (:15)

AND THAT'S TODAY'S TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN. WE'LL
HAVE MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE NEXT WEEK. (:03)

TAIL MUSIC (:03)