



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
34800 BOB WILSON DR.
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92134-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO.

NAVMEDCEN SDIEGOINST 6470.2G

EEA

24 MAY 2001

NAVMEDCEN SDIEGO INSTRUCTION 6470.2G

From: Commander

Subj: LASER SAFETY PROGRAM

Ref: (a) BUMEDINST 6470.19
(b) ANSI Z136.3-1996 "American National Standard for the Safe Use of Lasers in Healthcare Facilities"
(c) ANSI Z136.1-2000 "American National Standard for the Safe Use of Lasers"
(d) SPAWARINST 5100.12B
(e) OPNAVINST 5100.23E
(f) NAVMEDCOMINST 6470.23

1. Purpose. To establish guidelines for the safe use of lasers within Naval Medical Center, San Diego (NMCSO).

2. Cancellation. NAVMEDCEN SDIEGOINST 6470.2F.

3. Background. Reference (a) provides guidelines for a laser safety program for medical facilities and requires the use of reference (b). Reference (c) provides general information on laser classification, safety, and control measures. Other pertinent directives include references (d) and (e). Reference (f) provides guidelines for laser classification and medical surveillance.

4. Policy. NMCSO's policy is to maintain a laser safety program consistent with references (a) through (f). The laser safety program will be implemented by following the guidelines in reference (b) with program review, coordination, and oversight by the Laser Use Committee (LUC) and the Laser Systems Safety Officer (LSSO). Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be developed and followed for each laser.

5. Action. The following areas of responsibility are:

a. LUC is responsible to the Commander, NMCSO for ensuring that a comprehensive laser safety program is conducted, meets quarterly to review NMCSO's Laser Safety Program, and takes action, as necessary, to ensure compliance with references

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(a) through (f). The committee will consist of the following membership:

(1) Chairman - Senior Medical Corps Officer

(2) LSSO - Head, Radiation Safety Division

(3) Representatives from - Director for Nursing (Nurse Corps Officer), Director for Surgical Services, Director for Ancillary Services, Clinical Investigation Department, Medical Repair Division and others as recommended by the committee.

b. LSSO will be designated in writing by the Commander, NMCSO and must meet the training requirements listed in references (a) through (f). The LSSO will:

(1) Maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate NMCSO compliance with references (a) through (f).

(2) Inspect each laser work center at least annually to ensure procedures listed in their SOP(s) are followed.

(3) Coordinate laser safety training and medical surveillance examinations for NMCSO staff.

(4) Keep the LUC informed on the status of NMCSO's Laser Safety Program.

c. Professional Affairs Office is responsible for credentialing physicians who use lasers for patient treatment under the criteria recommended by the LUC.

d. Chairmen/Department Heads are responsible for ensuring that lasers under their purview are used as directed in references (a) through (f). Specific responsibilities include:

(1) Ensuring each laser has a separate SOP, that it has been approved by the LSSO prior to laser use and that the SOP is followed.

(2) Ensuring only qualified staff use or support laser use. Qualifications for all laser personnel prior to laser use include completion of both initial medical surveillance examinations and annual medical laser safety training. In

addition, they will ensure physicians who use lasers for unsupervised patient treatments have been approved by the Credentials Review Committee.

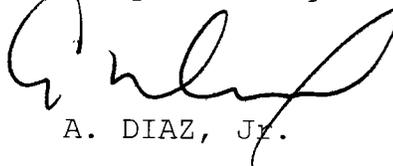
(3) Appointing a laser supervisor for each laser work center.

e. Laser supervisors are responsible to the Chairman/ Department Head to function as the departmental or work center point of contact for the LUC and/or LSSO. Specific responsibilities include:

(1) Monitoring routine laser use in the department or work center to ensure all safety measures in the SOP are followed.

(2) Coordinating with the LSSO for medical surveillance examinations, annual medical laser safety training and proposed changes in their respective SOP(s).

f. Laser Personnel include those physicians who use lasers for patient treatment in addition to the required healthcare/ technical support staff. Laser personnel are responsible for following the appropriate SOP, completing their initial medical surveillance examinations, as well as a medical examination immediately after a suspected abnormal exposure of the eye and attending annual medical laser safety training.



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