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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-112//

TO AIG 4905

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SUBJ: Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs)

A. Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1 (series)

1. DBQs are downloadable forms that can be used in the evaluation process for disability benefits. DBQs allow service members to have more control over the disability claims process. These streamlined forms use check boxes and standardized language so that the disability rating can be made accurately and quickly.

2. Beginning on 1 September 2014, Coast Guard medical officers are directed to complete the applicable DBQs for any Coast Guard members unfitting condition where a medical board (MEB) is required. For members with unfitting conditions whose MEBs are completed by DoD uniformed medical officers, DBQs may be completed by a DoD uniformed medical officer. For members with unfitting psychological impairments, DBQs may only be completed by a military or Veterans Affairs (VA) mental health care provider (as defined by REF A). DBQs should be used for MEBs initiated on or after 1 September 2014.

3. This is a new approach to developing standardized military health documentation that directly supports the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) process while also creating historical records that may support post career disability efforts with the VA. This is an opportunity to leverage Coast Guard organic medical capability to support increased readiness and transitional ease for members rendered unfit.

4. DBQs are available on line at:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/dbq\(UNDERSCORE\)ListByDBQFormName.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/dbq(UNDERSCORE)ListByDBQFormName.asp). Patient Instructions are available at:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq\(UNDERSCORE\)vetraninstruct.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq(UNDERSCORE)vetraninstruct.asp). Provider instructions are available at:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq\(UNDERSCORE\)providerinstruct.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq(UNDERSCORE)providerinstruct.asp)

5. REF A will be updated to reflect these changes.

6. The POC for this message is CDR Gerald Taylor, Occupational Medicine Chief, at [Gerald.N.Taylor\(at\)uscg.mil](mailto:Gerald.N.Taylor@uscg.mil) or (202) 475-5211.

7. CAPT Erica G. Schwartz, Chief, Office of Health Services sends.

8. Internet release authorized.

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