

PREFACE

The DoD and the VA have placed a priority on the standardization of care in the military and VA health systems to achieve greater consistency, quality, and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of health care services for active duty personnel, dependents, and retirees. In this context, the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) has been working in partnership with RAND to implement DoD/VA clinical practice guidelines proactively across the Army health system.

One of the key products of this AMEDD/RAND partnership is an Implementation Guide designed to assist Army medical treatment facilities (MTFs) in guideline implementation. The response to the guide was so enthusiastic within the Army that it was decided the guide should be adapted for use across the DoD.

This Implementation Guide is designed as a resource for those key staff members charged with carrying out the guideline implementation effort within an MTF. The guide contains information, instructions, and examples for each of the major steps in implementing a practice guideline: establishing supportive conditions and an implementation structure, building an effective Implementation Action Team, developing and executing an implementation action plan, and monitoring and feedback on implementation progress. In preparing the guide, RAND has drawn upon current knowledge from both research and field experiences, including many valuable lessons learned from the field in the AMEDD/RAND Guideline Implementation Project (see Introduction for a description).

This project is being sponsored by the U.S. Army Medical Department and is being conducted jointly by the Arroyo Center's Manpower and Training Program and RAND's Center for Military Health Policy Research. The Arroyo Center is a federally funded research and development center sponsored by the United States Army.

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