MEMORANDUM FOR STAFF DIRECTOR, DEFENSE MEDICAL STANDARDIZATION BOARD

SUBJECT: Jet Hypodermic Injection Units

Ped-O-Jet, the manufacturer of the military hypodermic jet injection unit, recently sent a letter to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs indicating there is a potential health hazard associated with its use. Apparently, the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have expressed concern that this type of device might be implicated in the spread of blood borne disease when used in the multiple dose mode. Ped-O-Jet has urged the military to discontinue use of these items until such studies are completed that would indicate they are safe to use.

It should be noted that the military designed unit has been in use for 35 years and we have no reports of any problems with the spread of blood borne disease on record. However, since the appearance of diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C, it might be best to proceed cautiously in the present time. Accordingly, we have sent a recommendation through the DoD Medical Products Quality Control System (MPQCS) that the use of these products, regardless of manufacturer, be discontinued until assurances of their safety are received. In light of the possible serious consequences and the letter from Ped-O-Jet, this is considered the best course of action. We are also suspending issue of these items from the depot.