

## INFORMATION PAPER

AFRC-MD (40)

23 February 1999

SUBJECT: Dental Examinations.

1. Purpose: To provide information on dental examinations and documentation during the physical exam process.

2. Points.

a. There are two types of dental examinations used during the physical examination process.

1. The classic dental examination is preferred and must be done by a dentist. This comprehensive examination includes radiographic interpretation and a complete oral inspection of the soft and hard tissue. The dental officer will record findings, give the soldier a dental classification, and sign the dental section of the SF 88.

2. The dental screening can be done in the absence of a dental officer. This type of examination is not as thorough and does not require radiographs. The Physician, PA, or NP conducting the dental screening looks for obvious pathology such as neoplasms, infections, bleeding, and gross dental caries (cavities). They can classify the soldier's dental condition but must state that they only performed a screening evaluation.

b. The physical examination site should make every effort to have a dentist present. This dental officer will review each soldier's dental record, ensure that the SF 603 parts I and II are completed, classify the soldier, and sign the dental portion of the SF 88.

c. Soldiers in dental class 3 will be referred to their private dentist for treatment. The soldiers are offered the opportunity to enroll in the Tricare Selected Reserve Dental Plan (TSRDP) if they do not have dental insurance. All soldiers in class 3 will return for a second dental screening or examination after completion of treatment.

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