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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-112//
TO AIG 4905
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UNCLAS //N06010//

SUBJ: THIRD MOLAR NON-REMOVAL AND EXTRACTION CRITERIA 1. PENDING RE-
RELEASE OF AN UPDATE TO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE NUMBER 39
ENTITLED, DENTAL CLINIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, THE FOLLOWING AIG
PROVIDES COAST GUARD DENTAL OFFICERS WITH CRITERIA FOR NON-REMOVAL OR
EXTRACTION WITH RESPECT TO THIRD MOLARS.

2. CRITERIA FOR NON-REMOVAL OF THIRD MOLARS INCLUDE:

A. ASYMPTOMATIC THIRD MOLARS THAT ARE EITHER NOT VISIBLE, CANNOT BE
PROBED WITH A DENTAL PROBE, PROBING DEPTHS ARE LESS THAN 4 MILLIMETERS,
AND THERE IS NO RADIOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF PATHOLOLGY.

B. THE TOOTH IS COMPLETELY ERUPTED, FUNCTIONAL, HYGIENIC, WITHOUT
CARIES OR READILY RESTORABLE AND HAS PROBING DEPTHS LESS THAN 4
MILLIMETERS.

C. THE TOOTH IS ERUPTING (WITH ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS) AND THERE APPEARS
TO BE ADEQUATE ROOM FOR THE THIRD MOLAR TO ERUPT INTO FUNCITONAL, HYGIENIC
POSITION.

3. CRITERIA FOR EXTRACTION OF THIRD MOLARS INCLUDE:

A. SYMPTOMOLOGY WITH LIMITED CHANCE FOR FUNCTIONAL, HYGIENIC,
PERIODONTAL, AND CARIES-FREE OR READILY RESTORABLE LONG TERM HEALTH.

B. ASSOCIATED PATHOLOGY INCLUDING FOLLICULAR CYST DEVELOPMENT,
EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL RESORPTION OF THIRD MOLAR, RECURRENT EPISODES OF
PERICORONITIS OR SINGLE EPISODE OF PERICORONITIS THAT WAS UNRESPONSIVE TO
TREATMENT, CARIES IN SECOND OR THIRD MOLAR NOT AMENABLE TO RESTORATIVE
MEASURES, AND THIRD MOLAR CONTRIBUTING TO PERIODONTAL DISEASE.

C. PROBING DEPTHS OF 4 MILLIMETERS OR MORE. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES
SUPPORT THE CONCEPT THAT THE RETENTION OF THIRD MOLARS WITH POCKETING
INCREASED THE RISK FOR SEVERAL BROADER CONDITIONS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH
INCREASED SYSTEMIC INFLAMMATION, INCLUDING PRETERM BIRTH AND
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE.

D. PATIENTS WHO MEET ONE OF THE ABOVE CRITERIA FOR EXTRACTION WITH A
CONTRALTERAL TOOTH THAT IS RADIOGRAPHICALLY SIMILAR, SHOULD BE GIVEN
STRONG CONIDERATION FOR EXTRACTION AT THE SAME TIME.

4. ALL DENTAL OFFICERS THAT PERFORM THIRD MOLAR CONSULTATION, DIAGNOSIS
AND/OR EXTRACTION SERVICES MUST READ AND ABIDE BY THE COAST GUARDS THIRD
MOLAR NON-REMOVAL AND EXTRACTION CRITERIA.

5. POC FOR THIS POLICY IS CAPT DONALD C. BELCHER AT
DONALD.C.BELCHER(AT)USCG.MIL.

6. CAPT MAURA K. DOLLYMORE, CHIEF, OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES, SENDS.

7. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

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