

**VHA PROSTHETIC CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PCMP)
CLINICAL PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR IMPLANTATION OF
PACEMAKER AND IMPLANTABLE CARDIOVERTER
DEFIBRILLATORS (ICDs)**

I. BACKGROUND

VHA's Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service Strategic Healthcare Group was directed by the Under Secretary for Health to establish a Prosthetic Clinical Management Program (PCMP). The objectives are to coordinate the development of clinical practice recommendations for prosthetic prescription practices and contracting opportunities to assure technology uniformity and ease of access to prosthetic prescriptions and patient care that will lead to valid outcome measures and analysis for research purposes.

The purpose of the clinical practice recommendations is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, to standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and to promote cost-effective prescribing.

A work group with input from selected VA field cardiologists convened to recommend clinical practice recommendations regarding pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrillators.

II. POLICY

The purpose of the clinical practice recommendations is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, to standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and to promote cost-effective prescribing.

III. CLINICAL PRACTICE RECOMMENDATION

The Prosthetic Clinical Management (PCM) workgroup on Pacemakers and ICDs recommends the VA adopt, for purposes of a clinical practice recommendation, the guidelines published by the American Heart Association (AHA), the American College of Cardiologists (ACC), and the North American Society for Pacing and Electrophysiology (NASPE), are summarized in GREGORATOS ET AL., Implementation of Cardiac Pacemakers and Antiarrhythmia Devices (Circulation 2002;106:2145-2161).

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:

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Under Secretary for Health

Date