



**DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY**  
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May 18, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTORS  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTORS  
DIRECTORS, SPECIAL STAFF  
DIRECTORS, DEFENSE HEALTH NETWORKS  
DIRECTORS, MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES

SUBJECT: Designation of Department of War Specialty Care Centers of Excellence

Pursuant to Section (§) 1073d(b)(4) of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), I designate the following locations as specialty care centers of excellence (CoE) across the clinical specialties detailed in the table below. Designated CoEs are the priority locations for direct care treatment and referral of high complexity beneficiary cases within each specialty.

The CoE hub sites will be the primary location for consultation, care coordination, and triage of referrals to scale CoE capabilities across the enterprise for each specialty. CoE hub sites are defined as role IV military medical centers or role III military medical treatment facilities with robust training, graduate medical education, and/or graduate dental education footprint, and co-location of maximal specialties, services, and diagnostic capabilities.

<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Location</b>
Amputations and Prosthetics	Military Advanced Training Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC)
	Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC)
	Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) at Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSA)
Burn Injuries and Wound Care	U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center, co-located at BAMC
Infectious Diseases and Preventive Medicine	BAMC
Maxillofacial Restoration	NMCSA
	BAMC

<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Location</b>
Ocular Trauma  <i>*All sites previously designated since 2022.</i>	BAMC †Includes shared patient population and staffing with Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center.
	WRNMMC †Includes shared patient population and staffing with Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC).
	NMCSA
	Madigan Army Medical Center
Oncology  <i>*Previously designated since 2012</i>	Murtha Cancer Center (MCC) at WRNMMC
Orthopedic Care	National Capital Region †Includes shared patient population and staffing at WRNMMC and ATAMMC.
Substance Abuse	BAMC
Transplant Surgery	Organ Transplant Service at WRNMMC
Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury  <i>*Previously designated since 2010</i>	National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), co-located at WRNMMC

The 10 U.S.C. § 1073d(b)(4) directs designation of Department of War CoEs across 10 specific areas of specialty care and allows designation of CoEs for other areas of specialty care as deemed appropriate by the Secretary of War. The responsibility to operationalize CoEs for specialty care services as outlined in 10 U.S.C. § 1073d(b)(4) has been delegated from the Secretary of War to the Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA).

External notification of the specialty care CoE locations detailed in this memorandum was provided to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate on February 4, 2026 to fulfill the statutory requirement of 10 U.S.C. § 1073d(b)(4). This memorandum serves as the official notification to the DHA enterprise.

My point of contact for this action is Dr. Chin Hee Kim, Deputy Chief, Specialty Care Support, DHA Medical Affairs.

//Signed  
DARIN VIA  
Vice Admiral, Medical Corps, United States Navy  
Director, Defense Health Agency

Attachment:  
As stated