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Change 1 only

RESCINDED Per DA Circular

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HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Washington, DC, 27 August 1975

MEDICAL SERVICES  
MEDICAL WARNING TAG AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
IDENTIFICATION SYMBOL

Effective 27 September 1975

This change implements the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) by adding Privacy Act Statements for forms prescribed in this publication that are covered under the act.

AR 40-15, 24 March 1975, is changed as follows:

1. The following form(s) (col m b) will be reproduced locally on 8 x 10 1/2 inch paper and made available on and after 27 September 1975 to the individual supplying data on form(s) in column a.

Column a	Column b
DA Form 3365	DA Form 3365-R, Privacy Act Statement

2. File this change sheet in front of the publication for reference purposes.

The proponent agency of this publication is the Office of the Surgeon General.  
 (Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) direct to HQDA (DASG-HCP) WASH DC 20310.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:  
 VERNE L. BOWERS  
 Major General, United States Army  
 The Adjutant General

FRED C. WEYAND  
 General, United States Army  
 Chief of Staff

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DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974  
(5 U.S.C. 552a)

TITLE OF FORM

Authorization for Medical Warning Tag

PRESCRIBING DIRECTIVE  
AR 40-15

1. AUTHORITY

Title 5, United States Code, Section 301  
Social Security Number - Title 42 (AR 608-14)

2. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S)

To insure that eligible beneficiaries who have selected health problems are furnished medical warning tags which alert emergency medical care providers of a selected health problem when the medical records are not available and the individual requiring care is unable to give a medical history.

3. ROUTINE USES

- a. Medical personnel prepare the request for the medical warning tag.
- b. Administrative personnel will utilize the information on the request to make the warning tag.
- c. Any individual providing emergency medical care to the patient will utilize the information on the warning tag.

The social security number is utilized to identify the medical record of the service member, retired service member, or their dependents.

4. MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE AND EFFECT ON INDIVIDUAL NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

- a. Disclosure is voluntary and no action is taken when the individual does not desire to provide the information.
- b. Use of the social security number is mandatory since it identifies the individual's medical record.



cl 2

S/S by AR 40-66, dtd 3 MAY 1975

\*AR 40-15

ARMY REGULATION  
No. 40-15

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC, 24 March 1975

MEDICAL SERVICES  
**MEDICAL WARNING TAG AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL IDENTIFICATION SYMBOL**

Effective 1 May 1975

This is a complete revision of AR 40-15. DA Label 162 (Emergency Medical Identification Symbol) has been added (figure 1). This label, when affixed to Health Record (HREC) and Outpatient Treatment Record (OTR), will enable AMEDD personnel to readily recognize selected health problems. Figure 3, has also been added, which illustrates a sample letter to be presented to patients upon issuance of the Medical Warning Tag.

	Paragraph
Purpose.....	1
Applicability.....	2
Description.....	3
Responsibility.....	4
Criteria for issue of Medical Warning Tag and Use of Emergency Medical Identification Symbol.....	5
Procedures.....	6
Supply of Tag Blanks and Forms.....	7

1. **Purpose.** *a. Medical Warning Tag.* Serves as a means of rapid recognition of selected health problems when records are not available and the individual requiring medical treatment is unable to give a medical history, (e.g., when an unconscious soldier has had a reaction to penicillin in the past, circumstances might lead a person rendering treatment to administer penicillin unless knowledge of the allergy is available).

*b. DA Label 162 (Emergency Medical Identification Symbol).* When the symbol is affixed to the HREC and OTR it will assist in the recognition of selected health problems documented within these records, and will be affixed to the records in conjunction with issuance of the Medical Warning Tag.

2. **Applicability.** *a. CONUS.* Provisions of this regulation will be implemented at Army MTFs and designated embossing units (para 4d).

*b. Oversea Commands.* Army commanders will implement provisions of this regulation as feasible, with such adaptations as may be required.

3. **Description.** *a. Medical Warning Tag.* Made of aluminum of bright red color the size and shape of the Army Identification Tag (AR 606-5). These tags may be embossed by the same embossing machines which are already in use for preparation of the Army Identification Tag.

*b. DA Label 162.* The emergency medical identification symbol is a self-adhesive label depicting the "Star of Life" (figure 1).

4. **Responsibility.** *a. Individual.* To wear the tag at all times for protection.

*b. Medical Officers.* (Includes civilian doctors of medicine, dentistry, and osteopathy). To determine when issuance of a tag and label are necessary, counsel patients as to the tags' importance, and insure that it is furnished to the patient along with a locally prepared letter of instruction similar to that shown at figure 3.

*c. MEDCEN/MEDDAC commanders.* To train Army Medical Department personnel to look for, recognize and use the information on the tag; insure that DA Label 162, is affixed to the HREC and OTR whenever DA Form 3365 is initiated; insure availability of material necessary to support this program; and to insure that information concerning the tag is incorporated into first aid instructions provided the individual soldier.

*d. Installation or organization commanders.* To designate, when requested by an MTF, a unit or units (equipped to emboss Army Identification Tags) to emboss Medical Warning Tags on receipt of DA Form 3365.

*e. Embossing activities.* Activities embossing medical warning tags will establish procedures

\*This regulation supersedes AR 40-15, 31 May 1974.

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which facilitate immediate preparation and delivery. Medical Warning Tag blanks will not be used for any other purpose.

**5. Criteria for issue of Medical Warning Tags and Use of Emergency Medical Identification Symbol.** *a. General.* The Emergency Medical Identification Symbol will be affixed to the patients HREC or OTR and a Medical Warning Tag will be issued to any individual receiving care at a military MTF when a medical officer, as described in paragraph 4b, determines that a patient has a medical condition meeting the criteria described below.

*b. Medical conditions.* Medical conditions warranting such identification should satisfy the following criteria:

- (1) Be permanent in nature.
- (2) Be well established with definite diagnosis.
- (3) Be of such a nature that, if the individual were unable to give a history of the problem, indicated medical care might be improper, delayed or otherwise compromised.

*c. Examples.* Examples of conditions that warrant authorizing patient and record identification include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- (1) Allergy to antibiotics or drugs such as penicillin or barbiturates.
- (2) Sensitivity to biological products such as horse sera.
- (3) Sensitivity to immunizing agents when exemption is justified under provisions of paragraph 9, AR 40-562.
- (4) Convulsive disorder.
- (5) Diabetes mellitus.
- (6) Special medication requirements such as anticoagulants or anticonvulsants, corticosteroids, antihypertensive drugs, or antabuse.
- (7) Sensitivity to insect stings.
- (8) Sickle Cell disease (specify).
- (9) Adrenal insufficiency.
- (10) Wearing contact lenses.

**6. Procedures.** *a. Preparation of DA Form 3365 (Authorization for Medical Warning Tag).* Prepared in original and at least two copies. Medical officer will sign the original and forward it to the embossing unit. The form includes a section representing the tag with an embossing format of

five plate lines, 18 blocks each. This section is illustrated at figure 2. Each entry will begin in the first block of a new line. Abbreviations, except for initials in the name, are not authorized. If a word requires more than 18 spaces, enter a dash after the last syllable which can be completed and continue the word on the next line. Only one letter per block will be entered in this section. The following information will be provided:

(1) First line (individual identification). Enter the patient's name (last, first, middle initial) or last name and initials. Enter the sponsor's SSN following the middle initial. When space is insufficient for name and SSN on this line, use line two for continuation.

(2) Second or next unused line (Drug, serum, or other allergy). Enter allergy on the next unused line beginning in block number one, and on the next unused line (beginning in block number one), the drug, serum, or other agent, e.g., PENICILLIN.

(3) Third or Next Unused Line (Specific conditions or potential problems). Enter the name of the condition or potential problem on the next unused line beginning in block number one, e.g., CONTACT LENSES, DIABETES MELLITUS.

(4) FOURTH or NEXT UNUSED LINE (SPECIFIC DRUG THERAPY). If an individual has been prescribed a specific drug, enter on this line: "I take (name of drug), e.g., INSULIN". In addition, if individual has more than one condition or is taking more than one medication, list those on the next unused line.

*b. Additional data.* Additional medical data related to items in 6a(1) through (4), may be entered in the "Remarks" section of the copy of the form which will be filed in the HREC or OTR.

*c. Administrative entries.* Space is provided on DA Form 3365 for signature of issuing officer, date the tag was presented, and name of sponsor, parent, or other individuals to be informed when tags are ready for pickup by someone other than the patient.

*d. Distribution of DA Form 3365.* DA Form 3365 used during embossing of the tag will be destroyed when no longer needed. One copy of the form will be retained in a suspense file at the MTF until the tag has been received and presented to

the patient; at that time it will be destroyed. The other copy will be filed in the patient's HREC or in the OTR.

e. *Preparation and distribution of Medical Warning Tag.* The tag will be prepared from data contained on DA Form 3365. Information will be embossed in sequence reflected on lines one through five of the tag content section of DA Form 3365. The embossed tag will be provided expeditiously to the patient after its preparation.

f. *Utilization of emergency medical identification symbol.* DA Label 162 will be affixed to the outside cover (front) of the HREC or OTR of those individuals who have conditions which warrant the issuance of a medical warning tag. The symbol will be affixed at the time that the DA Form 3365 is placed in the record.

7. **Supply of tag blanks and forms.** Metal blanks (Tag, Medical Warning: FSN 6530-142-8775) will be requisitioned through normal supply channels. DA Form 3365 and DA Label 162 will be requisitioned through normal publications supply channels.



ACTUAL SIZE

Figure 1. DA Label 162 (Emergency Medical Identification Symbol).

DESCRIPTION: Serpent: White  
 Staff: White  
 Star: Red  
 Background: White

TAG CONTENT																		
LINE NO.	SPACE NUMBER																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	B	L	A	N	D	E	N	S	H	I	P		W	I	N	F	I	-
2	E	L	D		F		S	O	8	1	6	6	8	4	4			
3	A	L	L	E	R	G	Y											
4	P	E	N	I	C	I	L	L	I	N								
5	C	O	N	T	A	C	T		L	E	N	S	E	S				

Figure 2. Example of completed "Tag Content" section, DA Form 3365 (Authorization for Medical Warning Tag).

**Sample Letter to be Presented to Patients Upon Issuance of Medical Warning Tag**

United States Army Hospital  
Fort Blank, Virginia

MEDPAD

Issuance date

Name of Patient to whom tag is issued

Dear

Your physician has determined that a medical warning tag should be issued to you because your medical condition cannot be easily recognized, or certain routine treatment procedures, if administered, may precipitate a serious reaction that could be life-threatening.

The tag has been issued to you to alert personnel to adverse conditions when you are unable to make these facts known to them while they are rendering assistance. The medical warning tag that you have been given performs the same function as a medical alert bracelet or necklace which are recognized worldwide. It is imperative that you wear this tag suspended from your neck at all times or procure at your own expense a similar commercial device, so that your personal safety can be assured.

Should your medical warning tag become lost, another may be procured from the nearest Uniformed Services medical treatment facility.

Sincerely,

Name and Signature of MTF Commander

*Figure 3*

The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of The Surgeon General. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) direct to HQDA (DASG-HCP) WASH DC 20314.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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