ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

Purposes of the Clinical Specialization Program

- Assist in the identification and development of appropriate areas of specialty practice in physical therapy
- Promote the highest possible level of physical therapy care
- Promote development of the science and art underlying each specialty practice
- Provide a reliable and valid method for certification of specialty practitioners
- Assist consumers and the health care community in identifying board-certified clinical specialists

What impact has board certification made on the profession?

- Increased status and public recognition of physical therapy
- Promotes high standards of practice and quality care
- Ensures present scope of practice and facilitates future development
- Stimulates professional growth and provides structure for career pathways
- Promotes clinical research to expand the scientific knowledge base
- Provides a stronger link between academic and clinical settings

Source: Survey of certified specialists (2007)

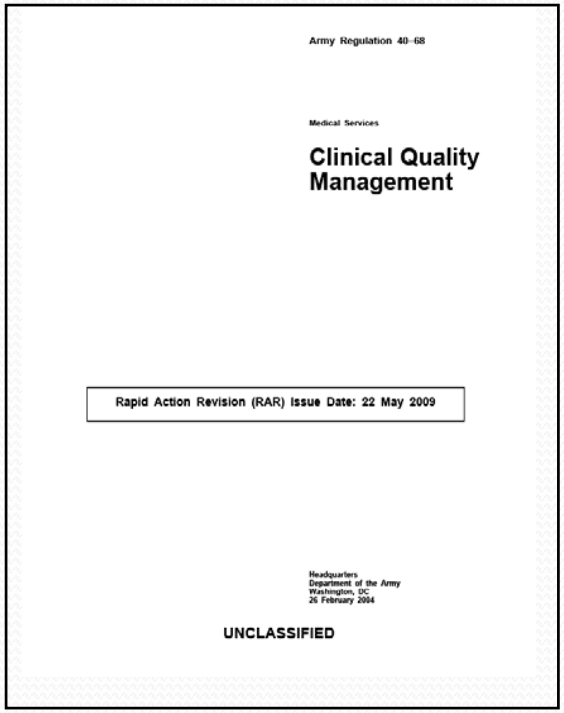
Future Plans

- Expanding the number of board certified specialty areas
- Developing a stronger programmatic link with clinical residency programs in physical therapy
- Increasing national recognition for the program
- Continuing to work with employers to recognize this significant professional achievement through incentives, promotion opportunities, financial compensation, etc.
- Increasing awareness of specialist certification in physical therapy among all health care professionals

An Army Perspective

- Our role as physician extenders
- US Army Baylor University Program
- Scope of practice dictated by regulations

Army Regulations Governing Our Scope of Practice



Army Regulation 40–68

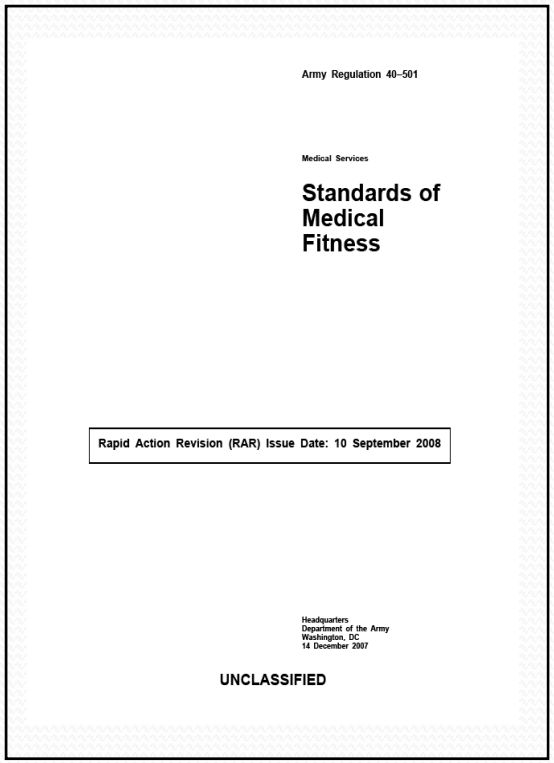
Medical Services

Clinical Quality Management

Rapid Action Revision (RAR) Issue Date: 22 May 2009

Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
26 February 2004

UNCLASSIFIED



Army Regulation 40–501

Medical Services

Standards of Medical Fitness

Rapid Action Revision (RAR) Issue Date: 10 September 2008

Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
14 December 2007

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Outlines our scope of practice: Category I and II privileges

Allows PTs to place physical limitations on Soldiers – temporary and permanent

Successes and Future Recommendations

- Competency based assessments
- Collaboration is essential and allows for the Advanced Scope of Practice
- Proposed expansion of privileges in deployed environments
- Primary care for musculoskeletal injuries