



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380

MCO 6310.1B  
MPP  
14 Apr 1982

MARINE CORPS ORDER 6310.1B W/CH 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: Pseudofolliculitis Barbae (PFB)

Ref: (a) MCO P1900.16D, MARCORSEPMAN

Encl: (1) PFB Treatment Instructions

1. Purpose. To publish the administrative procedures regarding the disposition of Marines with Pseudofolliculitis Barbae (PFB).
2. Cancellation. MCO 6310.1A.
3. Definition. PFB is a chronic inflammation of the skin in the beard area of the face and neck resulting from reentry penetration of the outer layer of the skin by the growing hair. Any male with particularly curly hair is susceptible to PFB.
4. Policy. Marines diagnosed as having PFB will be treated like any other patient with a dermatitis. While undergoing medical treatment for PFB, a Marine is considered to be fit for full duty. Eight weeks will usually be sufficient time to determine if some method of hair removal will alleviate the condition and allow the patient to conform to grooming standards. When a continual beard growth is required for treatment, the hair length shall not exceed one-fourth of an inch and should be limited to the affected area. Upon determination by local medical authority that a Marine is suffering from a permanent condition of PFB, commander's having General Court Martial authority may authorize convenience of the Government separation.
5. Information
  - a. Because PFB frequently requires the wearing of a beard during the early phases of treatment and Marine Corps regulations do not permit the wearing of a beard, commanders at all levels must be attuned to the possibility of deleterious effects on morale and discipline related to the treatment of PFB. To avoid this consequence, it is imperative that command and supervisory personnel are made aware of the medical management procedures involved in the treatment of PFB and that all unit members are informed of the conditions related to PFB. Above all else, the Marine patient with this condition must show the motivation to participate in the recommended treatment regimen to avoid unnecessary morale and discipline problems. Patients who misuse the medical authorization

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associated with the treatment of PFB may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

b. The treatment of PFB will require alteration in shaving techniques. Increased intervals of 2-3 days between shaving may be helpful. Use of abrasive pads designed for facial cleansing or coarse cloths may dislodge superficially imbedded hairs. Electric shavers are sometimes less irritating and promote fewer ingrown hairs in some individuals, but no advantage of any type or brand has been observed.

c. The use of chemical depilatories such as barium sulfide powders or thioglycolate creams in lieu of a razor will often alleviate the condition because there are no sharp beveled ends of hairs to penetrate the skin. However, chemical irritation and allergic sensitization may occur. If any adverse reaction to a chemical depilatory occurs, use of this product should be discontinued until medical evaluation can be obtained.

d. When the condition has progressed to the point where all established methods of hair removal fail to alleviate it and a medical officer has diagnosed that the patient can only control the condition by a continual beard growth, separation >Ch 1 of the member under paragraph 6203.2a(6) of the reference should be initiated.

## 6. Action

a. Commanding officers will be guided by the policy outlined in paragraph 4 above, and the following paragraphs.

b. When a beard growth is required during treatment, the patient should be issued a form as shown in the enclosure signed by a medical officer which notes the nature of the medical condition, specifies the areas which should not be shaved, and limits the length of time a beard growth is required for medical treatment. When irregular shaving is required during treatment, shaving frequency should also be specified. A copy of this form should be provided to the patient, to the patient's commanding officer, and an appropriate entry made in the patient's health record on SF600 (Chronological Record of Medical Care). The second page of the enclosure or a similar prepared form should be utilized to annotate areas on face and neck which cannot be shaved during treatment.

c. When a medical officer determines after a reasonable period of treatment (usually no more than 8 weeks) that

the patient can only control the condition by a continual beard growth, the commander will begin processing the Marine for separation from the Marine Corps at the convenience of the Government. The reference specifies the conditions and requirements of commands separating Marines for the convenience >CH 1 of the Government and paragraph 6203.2a(6) of the reference will be cited as the discharge authority. Additionally, those Marines separated for PFB will be assigned a reenlistment code of RE-3P.

d. Authority to grant convenience of the Government separation due to chronic PFB will not be delegated below those commands authorized General Courts Marital jurisdiction.

7. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



A. LUKEMAN  
By direction

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SUBJ: MCO 6310.1B CH 1. PSEUDOFOLLICULITIS BARBAE (PFB)

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC MPP-57//

RMKS/

1. THIS CHANGE IS APPLICABLE TO MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES ON PCN 102

094975 01. THIS CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

2. REF A SHOULD READ: MCO P1900.16D VICE MCO P1900.16B.

3. PAR 5D, THE REFERENCED PAR SHOULD READ 6203.2A(6) VICE

6012.1F(7).

4. PAR 6E, THE REFERENCED PAR SHOULD READ 6203.2A(6) VICE

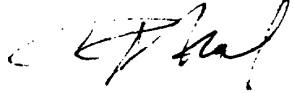
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MP, GENDIST

PCN 10209497501

MAJ E . BLOOM, MP-57, 41931

RI NEAL, BGEN, DIR, MP



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PFB TREATMENT INSTRUCTIONS

NAME OF PATIENT: GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT PATIENT IS ASSIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Only a medical officer can diagnose you having pft and only a medical officer can authorize you a "NO SHAVING" status for specific area(s) on the face and/or neck.

2. "NO SHAVING" means that the facial beard may grow to a length of one-fourth of an inch, however, during a "NO SHAVING" status you must trim the beard to the one-fourth of an inch length limitation.

3. Your PFB condition has been determined to be:

MILD-MODERATE PFB: This means that you have a "NO SHAVING" status for specified area(s) on your face and/or neck for 3 weeks. Use a washcloth, hairpick, soft-bristle brush, etc., to dislodge tips of hair. After the 3-week "NO SHAVING" status has elapsed, shaver every 3 days for 5 weeks.

SEVERE PFB: No shaving (must trim to keep beard one-fourth of an inch or shorter) for 4 weeks. The medical officer has specified the area(s) to which your "NO SHAVING" status applies. For the following 4 weeks you are directed to either shave every morning or use a chemical depilatory as prescribed by the medical officer.

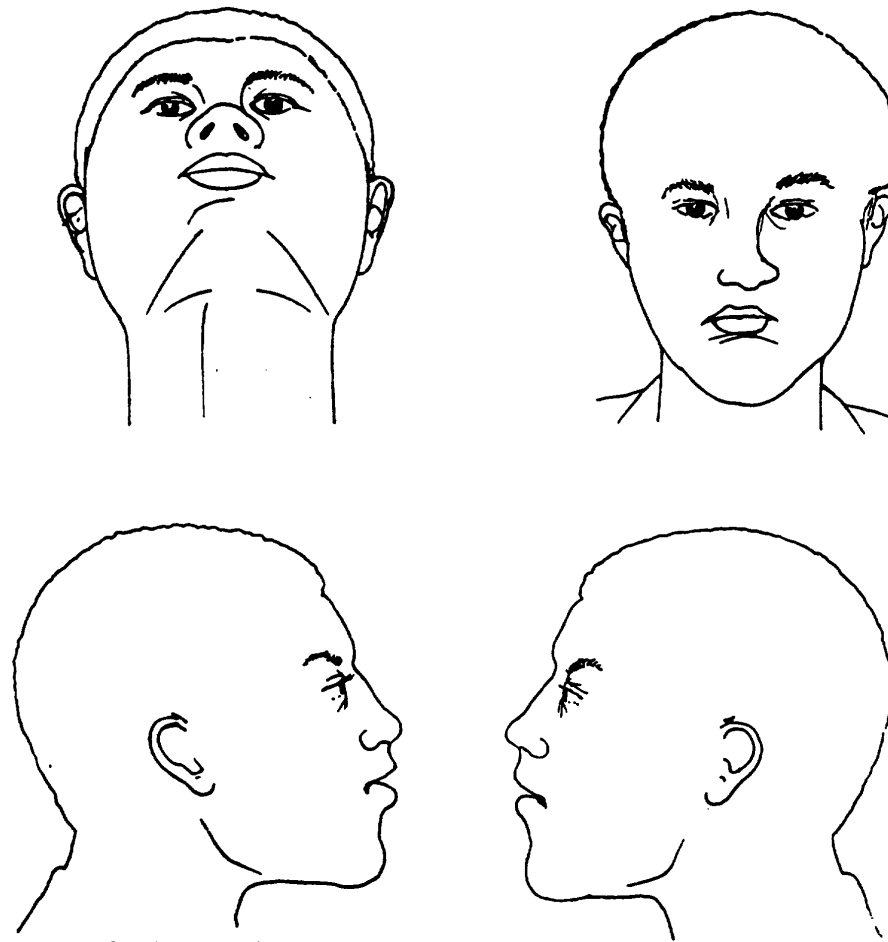
4. Your PFB treatment commenced on \_\_\_\_\_ which is the date you were diagnosed by the medical officer as having PFB. Eight weeks later you will schedule a return appointment to see the medical officer to have your PFB treatment evaluated. Eight weeks of treatment will terminate on/about \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Grade of Medical  
Officer

ENCLOSURE (1)

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NOTE - Attach one copy to treatment instructions and file one copy in Admin files.



Areas NOT to be shaven

Areas NOT to be shaven  
(Medical Officer must outline and shade in areas not to be shaven closer than one-fourth of an inch.)

Copy to:  
Marine with PFB (Must keep on his person)  
CO of Marine with PFB  
Copy field in Medical Treatment facility Admin Files

ENCLOSURE (1)