



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/SG
ALMDG/MDS/CC

FROM: HQ USAF/SG
1780 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1780

SUBJECT: Medical Guidance for Shaving Profiles

References: (a) Department of the Army. (2014). *Technical Bulletin: Pseudofolliculitis of the Beard and Acne Keloidalis Nuchae* (pp. 5-13).
(b) Treatment and Current Policies on Pseudofolliculitis Barbae in the US Military. (2023). *Cutis*, December, p. 300.
(c) Pseudofolliculitis Barbae in the U.S. Military, A Review, *Military Medicine*, January/February 2021, p.56.
(d) AF/SG Clinical Algorithm for Shaving Irritation and Pseudofolliculitis Barbae
(e) DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Department of the Air Force Personnel*, 29 February 2024 (corrective actions applied on 13 March 2024)

This memorandum provides updated guidance based on references (a), (b), and (c), and replaces previous memorandum dated 18 June 2020 and AFI 44-102 regarding Pseudofolliculitis Barbae (PFB).

Airmen and Guardians with a medical necessity for shaving profiles must be evaluated by a healthcare provider (HCP). HCPs should follow reference (d). Extended duration shaving profiles are generally reserved for severe cases of PFB, while mild-to-moderate cases may benefit from more frequent management, follow-ups, and temporary shaving profiles. Temporary profiles will be approved by a profiling officer, while extended duration profiles are adjudicated by the senior profiling officer. Profiles must incorporate applicable grooming standards outlined in reference (e).

All current shaving profiles remain valid but will expire 90 calendar days after the next Periodic Health Assessment (PHA), effective 1 March 2025. Members will review medical needs during the PHA and be scheduled for follow-up evaluation if needed. Military HCPs are advised to issue future profiles in accordance with clinical algorithm (d). Commanders may request evaluation of unit service members due to operational concerns stemming from a medical condition, IAW AFI 48-133, 4.4.4.3. This memorandum does not apply to religious accommodation shaving waivers.

This memorandum will expire upon the issuance of a new memorandum or when incorporated into policy. Questions regarding this memorandum may be directed to Colonel E. Hugh Mulagha, via email at eneva.h.mulagha.mil@health.mil.

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