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(CIRCULAR No. 1.)

## Surgeon General's Office,

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., *January 14, 1863.*

By order of the War Department, the following instructions are promulgated in reference to discharges from General Hospitals :

I. Under no circumstances has the Surgeon in charge of General Hospitals, as commanding officer thereof, authority to discharge soldiers.

The final statements, and all the discharge papers, will be made out under the supervision of the military commander, and signed by him. (Vide paragraph 3 of General Orders, No. 36, of 1862.)

To prevent confusion and misunderstanding hereafter, Medical Officers in charge of General Hospitals are enjoined to be strictly guided by the above instructions.

II. Surgeons in charge of General Hospitals will, as soon as possible after the close of each month, transmit to this Office a copy of the "Statement of the Hospital Fund." (Vide paragraph 1264, General Regulations.)

Medical Directors will urge upon the Surgeons under their control the importance of prompt obedience to this regulation.

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND,  
*Surgeon General U. S. Army.*

