

I. Medicare PPS Changes Which Affect the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System

Following is a discussion of the changes CMS has made to the Medicare PPS that affect the TRICARE DRG-based payment system.

A. DRG Classifications

Under both the Medicare PPS and TRICARE DRG-based payment system, cases are classified into the appropriate DRG by a Grouper program. The Grouper classifies each case into a DRG on the basis of the diagnosis and procedure codes and demographic information (that is, sex, age, and discharge status). The Grouper used for the TRICARE DRG-based payment system is the same as the current Medicare Grouper with two modifications. The TRICARE system has replaced Medicare DRG 435 with two age-based DRGs (900 and 901), and has implemented thirty-four (34) neonatal DRGs in place of Medicare DRGs 385 through 390. For admissions occurring on or after October 1, 2001, DRG 435 has been replaced by DRG 523.

The TRICARE system has replaced DRG 523 with the two age-based DRGs (900 and 901). For admissions occurring on or after October 1, 1995, the CHAMPUS grouper hierarchy logic was changed so the age split (age <29 days) and assignments to MDC 15 occur before assignment of the PreMDC DRGs. This resulted in all neonate tracheostomies and organ transplants to be grouped to MDC 15 and not to DRGs 480–483 or 495. For admissions occurring on or after October 1, 1998, the CHAMPUS grouper hierarchy logic was changed to move DRG 103 to the PreMDC DRGs and to assign patients to PreMDC DRGs 480, 103 and 495 before assignment to MDC 15 DRGs and the neonatal DRGs. For admissions occurring on or after October 1, 2001, DRGs 512 and 513 were added to the PreMDC DRGs, between DRGs 480 and 103 in the TRICARE grouper hierarchy logic.

For FY 2003, CMS will implement classification changes, including surgical hierarchy changes. The TRICARE Grouper will incorporate all changes made to the Medicare Grouper.

B. Wage Index and Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board Guidelines

TRICARE will continue to use the same wage index amounts used for the Medicare PPS. In addition, TRICARE will duplicate all changes with regard to the wage index for specific hospitals that are redesignated by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board.

C. Hospital Market Basket

TRICARE will update the adjusted standardized amounts according to the final updated hospital market basket used for the Medicare PPS according to CMS's August 1, 2002, final rule.

D. Outlier Payments

Since TRICARE does not include capital payments in our DRG-based payments, we will use the fixed loss cost outlier threshold calculated by CMS for paying cost outliers in the absence of capital prospective payments. For FY 2003, the fixed loss cost outlier threshold is based on the sum of the applicable DRG-based payment rate plus any amounts payable for IDME plus a fixed dollar amount. Thus, for FY 2003, in order for a case to qualify for cost outlier payments, the costs must exceed the TRICARE DRG base payment rate (wage adjusted) for the DRG plus the IDME payment plus \$30,707 (wage adjusted). The marginal cost factor for cost outliers continues to be 80 percent.

E. Blood Clotting Factor

For FY 2003, the updated HCPCS codes and payment rates for blood clotting factors can be found in the TRICARE Reimbursement Manual, Chapter 6, Section 4, which is accessible through the Internet at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> under the sequential headings TRICARE Beneficiaries, Other Resources, TRICARE Manuals, TRICARE Reimbursement Manual. TRICARE uses the same ICD–9–CM diagnosis codes as CMS for add-on payment for blood clotting factors.

F. Indirect Medical Education (IDME) Adjustment

Passage of The Benefits Improvement and Protection Act (BIPA) of 2000, modified the transition for the IDME adjustment that was first established by the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 and revised by the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999. The formula multiplier for the TRICARE IDME adjustment has been revised to 1.02 for FY 2003 and thereafter.

G. National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs

The FY 2003 TRICARE National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs used in calculating the cost outlier threshold is 0.915.

II. Cost to Charge Ratio

For FY 2003, the cost-to-charge ratio used for the TRICARE DRG-based payment system will be 0.5062, which is increased to 0.5132 to account for bad

debts. This shall be used to calculate the adjusted standardized amounts and to calculate cost outlier payments, except for children's hospitals. For children's hospital cost outliers, the cost-to-charge ratio used is 0.5604.

III. Updated Rates and Weights

The updated rates and weights are accessible through the Internet at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> under the sequential headings TRICARE Provider Information, Rates and Reimbursements, and DRG Information. Table 1 provides the ASA rates and Table 2 provides the DRG weights to be used under the TRICARE DRG-based payment system during FY 2003 and which is a result of the changes described above. The implementing regulations for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system are in 32 CFR part 199.

Dated: October 30, 2002.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee meetings.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board will meet in closed session on January 20–30, 2003; May 21–22, 2003; and October 22–23, 2003, at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Defense Science Board will discuss interim findings and recommendations resulting from ongoing Task Force activities. The Board will also discuss plans for future consideration of scientific and technical aspects of specific strategies, tactics, and policies as they may affect the U.S. national defense posture and homeland security.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II), it has been determined that these Defense Science Board meetings concern matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1) and that, accordingly,

these meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: October 30, 2002.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on the Smallpox Vaccine Down Select Process will meet in closed session on December 9, 2002, and February 6, 2003, at SAIC, 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. The Task Force will perform an independent evaluation of the Department of Defense and Department of Health and Human Services smallpox vaccine candidates.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Task Force will evaluate each of the three smallpox vaccine candidates to include the following type of issues: Choice of cell line and viral strain used; preclinical data in appropriate animal models; review of vaccine production methodology to include rates of production and surge capacity; review of protocols for clinical trials to include adverse reaction rates; review of cost issues as they relate to production of the vaccine; review of critical regulatory, legal, and ethical issues associated with the use of the vaccine; and any other issues that the Task Force feels, based on its experience, are relevant.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II), it has been determined that these Defense Science Board Task Force meetings concern matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and that, accordingly, these meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: October 30, 2002.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Department of Defense Mission Closure at Johnston Atoll Airfield

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR 989), Detachment 1 of the 15 Air Base Wing (ABW) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the DoD mission closure of Johnston Atoll Airfield. Johnston Atoll (JA) is an unincorporated territory (*i.e.*, possession) of the United States located approximately 717 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii, in the central Pacific Ocean. The Air Force and its implementing agent, Detachment 1, 15 ABW currently serves as the host-management agency for JA military missions. After December 31, 2003, no further military mission requirements have been identified for JA.

Detachment 1, 15 ABW will be the lead agency for the EIS. Since Honolulu is the closest population center to this remote Pacific atoll, Detachment 1, 15 ABW will conduct a Public Scoping Meeting, scheduled for November 6, 2002, in Honolulu, Hawaii at Washington Intermediate School, located at 1633 South King Street. The meeting's purpose is to determine the environmental issues and concerns to be analyzed, to solicit comments on the Proposed Action and alternatives, and to solicit input for other alternatives to be considered in the EIS.

The current proposal evaluates four alternatives—(1) No Action; (2) mission closure with declaration of excess to General Services Administration (GSA); (3) mission closure, but retain ownership of JA (do not excess property to GSA); and (4) caretaker status (mothball JA and retain for future missions). The Proposed Action is alternative (2); however, all comments received during the Scoping Meeting will be considered prior to the Air Force making a decision.

For further information concerning the DoD mission closure at JA or alternatives to the proposed action, please contact Ms. Fran Saunders, Chief, Johnston Atoll Program Office, OL-A, Detachment 1, 15 ABW, 200 Vickers

Avenue, Bldg 1055, Hickam AFB, HI 96853-5271.

Pamela D. Fitzgerald,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of Government-Owned Invention; Available for Licensing

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Navy and is available for licensing by the Department of the Navy. Navy Case No. 83,326, entitled "Use of Selective Electrodes for Illicit Drugs Analysis in Saliva and Surface Wipes".

ADDRESSES: Requests for information about the invention cited should be directed to the Naval Research Laboratory, Code 1004, 4555 Overlook Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20375-5320, and must include the Navy Case number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Catherine M. Cotell, Ph.D., Head, Technology Transfer Office, NRL Code 1004, 4555 Overlook Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20375-5320, telephone (202) 767-7230. Due to temporary U.S. Postal Service delays, please fax (202) 404-7920, *E-Mail:* cotell@nrl.navy.mil or use courier delivery to expedite response.

(Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR Part 404)

Dated: October 29, 2002.

R.E. Vincent II,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.