

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

Following is a discussion of the changes the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has made to the Medicare PPS that affect the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system.

A. DRG Classifications

Under both the Medicare PPS and the TRICARE/CHAMPUS 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/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system is the same as the current Medicare Grouper with two modifications. The TRICARE/CHAMPUS 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, 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 FY 2001, HCFA will implement classification changes, including surgical hierarchy changes. The CHAMPUS Grouper will incorporate all changes made to the Medicare Grouper.

B. Wage Index and Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board Guidelines

TRICARE/CHAMPUS will continue to use the same wage index amounts used for the Medicare PPS. In addition, TRICARE/CHAMPUS 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/CHAMPUS will update the adjusted standardized amounts according to the final updated hospital market basket used for the Medicare

PPS according to HCFA's August 1, 2000, final rule.

D. Outlier Payments

Since TRICARE/CHAMPUS does not include capital payments in our DRG-based payments, we will use the fixed loss cost outlier threshold calculated by HCFA for paying cost outliers in the absence of capital prospective payments. For FY 2001, 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 2001, in order for a case to qualify for cost outlier payments, the costs must exceed the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG base payment rate (wage adjusted) for the DRG plus the IDME payment plus \$16,036 (wage adjusted). The marginal cost factor for cost outliers continues to be 80 percent.

E. Blood Clotting Factor

For FY 2001, TRICARE/CHAMPUS will use the following HCPCS codes and payment rates for blood clotting factors:

- J7190 Factor VIII (antihemophilic factor—human): \$0.85 per unit
- J7191 Factor VIII (antihemophilic factor—porcine): 2.09 per unit
- J7192 Factor VIII (antihemophilic factor—recombinant): 1.12 per unit
- J7194 Factor IX (complex): 0.31 per unit
- J7198 Anti-inhibitor: 1.43 per unit
- Q0160 Factor IX (antihemophilic factor, purified, Non-recombinant): 1.05 per unit
- Q0161 Factor IX (antihemophilic factor, recombinant): 1.12 per unit

F. Indirect Medical Education (IDME) Adjustment

The Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999, modified the transition for the IDME adjustment that was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The new multiplier for the IDME adjustment factor for TRICARE/CHAMPUS for FY 2001 is 1.16.

II. Cost to Charge Ratio

For FY 2001, the cost-to-charge ratio used for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system will be 0.5353, which is increased to 0.5408 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 0.5913.

III. Updated Rates and Weights

The updated rates and weights are accessible through the Internet at www.tricare.osd.mil under the heading

TRICARE Provider Information. Table 1 provides the ASA rates and Table 2 provides the DRG weights to be used under the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system during FY 2001 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: November 16, 2000.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 00–29935 Filed 11–22–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board Task Force on Improving Fuel Efficiency of Weapons Platforms; Notice of Meeting

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Improving Fuel Efficiency of Weapons Platforms will meet in closed session on November 15–16, 2000, at the Institute for Defense Analyses, 1801 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311–1772.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At this meeting, the Task Force will review fuel-efficient technologies, including new or improved fuels, engines, Alternative Fueled Vehicles, and other advanced technologies and assess their operational, logistical, cost, and environmental impacts for a range of practical implementation scenarios.

Due to critical mission requirements, there is insufficient time to provide timely notice required by Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and Subsection 101–6.1015(b) of the GSA Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, 41 CFR part 101–6, which further requires publication at least 15 calendar days prior to the meeting of the Task Force on November 15–16, 2000.

Persons interested in further information should call Commander Brian D. Hughes, USN, at (703) 695–4157.

Dated: November 16, 2000.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 00-29932 Filed 11-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board; Notice of advisory committee meeting

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board (DB) Task Force on Systems Technology for the Future U.S. Strategic Posture will meet in closed session on December 14-15, 2000; January 10-11, 2001; February 14-15, 2001; March 14-15, 2001; April 11-12, 2001; May 16-17, 2001; and June 13-14, 2001. All meetings will be held at Strategic Analysis Inc., 3601 Wilson Boulevard, 6th Floor, Arlington, VA 22202. This Task Force will review the likely nature and evolution of potential future strategic challenges to the U.S., advanced technologies for nuclear weapons systems and non-nuclear strategic weapons systems, and advanced C4ISR technology applications for strategic contingencies.

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 Task Force will consider the extent to which technologies and systems currently being developed and applied for regional contingencies are relevant and applicable to future strategic contingencies; take into account affordability and arms control constraints; look at possible future ballistic missile defense technology to the extent that ballistic missile defense relates to the overall future strategic posture; and consider strategies for using the national strategic technology base to deal with, or hedge against, the uncertainties and ambiguities inherent in the nature and timing of emergence of possible strategic threats, including possible dissuasion of such threats; and, consider the capability of the technology and industrial base to respond in time to long-term strategic warning in various forms, including the adequacy and responsiveness of DoD's science and technology programs.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended (5

U.S.C. App. II, (1994)), it has been determined that these Defense Science Board meetings concern matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1)(1994), and that accordingly these meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: November 16, 2000.

L. M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 00-29933 Filed 11-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board Task Force on Logistics Transformation Phase II; Notice of Meeting

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Logistics Transformation Phase II was held in closed session on November 15-16, 2000, at SAIC, 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22203.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At this meeting, the Task Force will review and evaluate DoD's progress on the transformation of the DoD logistics system. In addition, the Task Force will review future plans and programs to determine their compliance with the recommendations contained in the 1998 DSB report on DoD Logistics Transformation; determine the nature of barriers inhibiting the rapid transformation of the system, paying particular attention to technical, legal, and operational issues; and determining if any future implementation actions are required.

Due to critical mission requirements, there is insufficient time to provide timely notice required by Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and Subsection 101-6.1015(b) of the GSA Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, 41 CFR Part 101-6, which further requires publication at least 15 calendar days prior to the meeting of the Task Force on November 15-16, 2000.

Persons interested in further information should call Commander Brian D. Hughes, USN, at (703) 695-4157.

Dated: November 16, 2000.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 00-29934 Filed 11-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Army Science Board; Notice of Open Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, (Public Law 92-463), an announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

Name of Committee: Army Science Board (ASB).

Date of Meeting: 4-5 December 2000.

Place of Meeting: Hilton Hotel, Crystal City, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

Agenda: The ASB will meet for the first of three Plenary Meetings to discuss ongoing studies, plan forthcoming studies and will receive presentations regarding major Army initiatives and issues. These meetings will be open to the public. Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file statements with the committee at the time and in the manner permitted by the committee. For further information, please contact Mike Hendricks at (703) 617-7048.

Wayne Joyner,

Executive Assistant, ASB.

[FR Doc. 00-29974 Filed 11-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-38-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Mandatory Utilization of Powertrack Requirement

AGENCY: Military Traffic Management Command, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC), as the Department of Defense (DOD) Traffic Manager for surface and surface intermodal freight traffic management, hereby announces the mandatory use of USBank's Powertrack system as the transportation transaction and payment system for all air (includes small package express), barge, pipeline, rail and sealift freight carriers, and Guaranteed Traffic carriers, participating in the transport of DOD freight traffic.

DATES: November 30, 2000, for air (includes small package express), barge, pipeline, rail and sealift carriers, and