

Time	Topic	Presenter
3:45 pm	Executive Session. Adjourn.	
4:30 pm		

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. paragraph 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR paragraph 102–3.155, the Department of Defense has determined that the meeting shall be closed to the public. The Director, U.S. Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff, in consultation with his General Counsel, has determined in writing that the public interest requires that all sessions of the committee's meeting will be closed to the public because they will be concerned with classified information and matters covered by section 5 U.S.C. paragraph 552b(c)(1).

Committee's Designated Federal Officer: Mr. William L. Jones, (703) 681–8681, U.S. Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff (NSS), Skyline 3, 5201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500, Falls Church, Virginia 22041. William.jones@nss.pentagon.mil.

Pursuant to 41 CFR paragraphs 102–3.105(j) and 102–3.140, and section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the public or interested organizations may submit written statements at any time to the Nuclear Command and Control System Federal Advisory Committee about its mission and functions. All written statements shall be submitted to the Designated Federal Officer for the Nuclear Command and Control System Federal Advisory Committee. He will ensure that written statements are provided to the membership for their consideration. Written statements may also be submitted in response to the stated agenda of planned committee meetings. Statements submitted in response to this notice must be received by the Designated Federal Official at least five calendar days prior to the meeting which is the subject of this notice. Written statements received after that date may not be provided or considered by the Committee until its next meeting. All submissions provided before that date will be presented to the committee members before the meeting that is subject of this notice. Contact information for the Designated Federal Officer is listed above.

Dated: October 22, 2008.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. E8–25985 Filed 10–30–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Membership of the Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense; Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the appointment of the members of the Performance Review Board (PRB) of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The publication of PRB membership is required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(C)(4).

The Performance Review Board (PRB) provides fair and impartial review of Senior Executive Service performance appraisals and makes recommendations regarding performance ratings and performance scores to the Director, DFAS.

DATES: *Effective Date:* November 18, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise Thornburg, DFAS SES Program Manager, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Arlington, Virginia, (303) 337–3288.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4314(C)(4), the following executives are appointed to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service PRB: Richard Gustafson, Steve Turner, Nancy Zmyslinski. Executives listed will serve a one-year renewable term, effective November 18, 2008.

Dated: October 22, 2008.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. E8–26001 Filed 10–30–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE; Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Fiscal Year 2009 Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) Updates

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of DRG revised rates.

SUMMARY: This notice describes the changes made to the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System in order to conform to changes made to the Medicare Prospective Payment System (PPS).

It also provides the updated fixed loss cost outlier threshold, cost-to-charge ratios, and the Internet address for accessing the updated adjusted standardized amount and DRG relative weights to be used for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 under the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System.

DATES: *Effective Dates:* The rates, weights, and Medicare PPS changes which affect the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System contained in this notice are effective for admissions occurring on or after October 1, 2008.

ADDRESSES: TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, 16401 East Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011–9066.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Ann N. Fazzini, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Branch, TMA, telephone (303) 676–3803.

Questions regarding payment of specific claims under the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System should be addressed to the appropriate contractor.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final rule published on September 1, 1987 (52 FR 32992), set forth the basic procedures used under the CHAMPUS DRG-Based Payment System. This was subsequently amended by final rules published August 31, 1988 (53 FR 33461), October 21, 1988 (53 FR 41331), December 16, 1988 (53 FR 50515), May 30, 1990 (55 FR 21863), October 22, 1990 (55 FR 42560), and September 10, 1998 (63 FR 48439).

An explicit tenet of these final rules, and one based on the statute authorizing the use of DRGs by TRICARE, is that the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System is modeled on the Medicare PPS, and that, whenever practicable, the TRICARE system will follow the same rules that apply to the Medicare PPS. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes these changes annually in the **Federal Register** and discusses in detail the impact of the changes.

In addition, this notice updates the rates and weights in accordance with our previous final rules. The actual changes we are making, along with a

description of their relationship to the Medicare PPS, are detailed below.

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 the 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 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 2 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 Major Diagnostic Category (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 admissions occurring on or after October 1, 2004, DRG 483 was deleted and replaced with DRGs 541 and 542, splitting the assignment of cases on the basis of the performance of a major operating room procedure. The description for DRG 480 was changed to “Liver Transplant and/or Intestinal Transplant”, and the description for DRG 103 was changed to “Heart/Heart Lung Transplant or Implant of Heart Assist System.” For FY 2007, CMS implemented classification changes, including surgical hierarchy changes.

The TRICARE Grouper incorporated all changes made to the Medicare Grouper, with the exception of the pre-surgical hierarchy changes, which will remain the same as FY 2006. For FY 2008, Medicare implemented their Medicare-Severity DRG (MS–DRG) Based Payment System. TRICARE, however, continued with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services DRG-based (CMS–DRG) payment system for FY 2008. For FY 2009, the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-Based Payment System shall be modeled on the MS–DRG system, with the following modifications.

The MS–DRG system consolidated the 43 pediatric CMS DRGs that were defined based on age less than or equal to 17 years of age into the most clinically similar MS–DRGs. In their Inpatient Prospective Payment System final rule for MS–DRGs, Medicare stated for their population these pediatric CMS DRGs contained a very low volume of Medicare patients. At the same time, Medicare encouraged private insurers and other non-Medicare payers to make refinements to MS–DRGs to better suit the needs of the patients they serve. Consequently, TRICARE finds it appropriate to retain the pediatric CMS–DRGs for our population. TRICARE is also retaining the TRICARE-specific DRGs for neonates and substance use.

TRICARE has retained the MS–DRG numbering system for FY 2009, and those TRICARE-specific DRGs have been assigned available, blank DRG numbers unused in the MS–DRG system. We refer the reader to <http://www.tricare.mil/drgrates> for a complete crosswalk containing the TRICARE DRG numbers for FY 2009.

For FY 2009, TRICARE will use the MS–DRG v26.0 pre-MDC hierarchy, with the exception that MDC 15 is applied after DRG 011–012 and before MDC 24.

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. TRICARE will also duplicate all changes with regard to the wage index for specific hospitals that are redesignated by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board. In addition, TRICARE will continue to utilize the out commuting wage index adjustment.

C. Revision of the Labor-Related Share of the Wage Index

TRICARE is adopting CMS' percentage of labor related share of the standardized amount. For wage index values greater than 1.0, the labor related

portion of the Adjusted Standardized Amount (ASA) shall equal 69.7 percent. For wage index values less than or equal to 1.0 the labor related portion of the ASA shall continue to equal 62 percent.

D. Hospital Market Basket

TRICARE will update the adjusted standardized amounts according to the final updated hospital market basket used for the Medicare PPS for all hospitals subject to the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System according to CMS's August 19, 2008, final rule. For FY 2009, the market basket is 3.6 percent.

E. Outlier Payments

Since TRICARE does not include capital payments in our DRG-based payments (TRICARE reimburses hospitals for their capital costs as reported annually to the contractor on a pass through basis), 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 2009, the fixed loss cost outlier threshold is based on the sum of the applicable DRG-based payment rate plus any amounts payable for Indirect Medical Education (IDME) plus a fixed dollar amount. Thus, for FY 2009, 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 \$20,185 (wage adjusted). The marginal cost factor for cost outliers continues to be 80 percent.

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

The FY 2007 TRICARE National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs (NOSCASTC) used in calculating the cost outlier threshold is 0.925. TRICARE uses the same methodology as CMS for calculating the NOSCASTC; however, the variables are different because TRICARE uses national cost to charge ratios, while CMS uses hospital specific cost to charge ratios.

G. Indirect Medical Education (IDME) Adjustment

Passage of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 modified the formula multipliers to be used in the calculation of the indirect medical education IDME adjustment factor. Since the IDME formula used by TRICARE does not include disproportionate share hospitals, the variables in the formula are different than Medicare's, however; the percentage reductions that will be applied to Medicare's formula will also

be applied to the TRICARE IDME formula. The new multiplier for the IDME adjustment factor for TRICARE for FY 2009 is 1.02.

H. Expansion of the Post Acute Care Transfer Policy

For FY 2009, TRICARE is adopting CMS' expanded post acute care transfer policy according to CMS' final rule published August 19, 2008.

I. Blood Clotting Factor

For FY 2009, TRICARE is adopting CMS' payment methodology for blood clotting factor according to CMS' final rule published August 18, 2006.

J. Cost to Charge Ratio

While CMS uses hospital-specific cost to charge ratios, TRICARE uses a national cost to charge ratio. For FY 2009, the cost-to-charge ratio used for the TRICARE DRG-Based Payment System for acute care hospitals and neonates will be 0.3726 which is increased to 0.3796 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 0.4099.

K. 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 2009 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 22, 2008.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. E8-25984 Filed 10-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Air University Board of Visitors Meeting

ACTION: Amended Notice of Meeting of the Air University Board of Visitors, Reference Published **Federal Register** Notice, Vol. 73, No. 181, Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.150, the Department of Defense announces that the Air University Board of Visitors' meeting will take place on Monday, November 17th, 2008, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Tuesday, November 18th, 2008, from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Due to conference room renovation, portions of the meeting will be held off-base in the local community. Please contact Dr. Dorothy Reed, 334-953-5159 for further details of the meeting locations.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters pertaining to the educational, doctrinal, and research policies and activities of Air University. The agenda will include topics relating to the policies, programs, and initiatives of Air University educational programs.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102-3.155 all sessions of the Air University Board of Visitors' meeting will be open to the public. Any member of the public wishing to provide input to the Air University Board of Visitors should submit a written statement in accordance with 41 CFR § 102-3.140(c) and section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the procedures described in this paragraph. Written statements can be submitted to the Designated Federal Officer at the address detailed below at any time. Statements being submitted in response to the agenda mentioned in this notice must be received by the Designated Federal Officer at the address listed below at least five calendar days prior to the meeting which is the subject of this notice. Written statements received after this date may not be provided to or considered by the Air University Board of Visitors until its next meeting. The Designated Federal Officer will review all timely submissions with the Air University Board of Visitors' Board Chairperson and ensure they are provided to members of the Board before the meeting that is the subject of this notice. Additionally, any member of the public wishing to attend this meeting should contact either person listed below at least five calendar days prior to the meeting for information on base entry passes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Dorothy Reed, Federal Designated Officer, Air University Headquarters, 55 LeMay Plaza South, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112-6335, telephone

(334) 953-5159 or Mrs. Diana Bunch, Alternate Federal Designated Officer, same address, telephone (334) 953-4547.

Bao-Anh Trinh,

DAF, Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-26006 Filed 10-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

[Docket No. USA-2008-0005]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by December 1, 2008.

Title, Form, and OMB Number: Application for a Department of the Army Permit; ENG Form 4345, OMB Control Number 0710-0003.

Type of Request: Revision.

Number of Respondents: 89,450.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 89,450.

Average Burden per Response: 11 hours.

Annual Burden Hours: 984,000.

Needs and Uses: Information collected is used to evaluate, as required by law, proposed construction or filing in waters of the United States that result in impacts to the aquatic environment and nearby properties, and to determine if issuance of a permit is in the public interest. Respondents are private landowners, businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Respondents also include sponsors of proposed and approved mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; farms; Federal government; State; local or tribal government.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: Mr. Jim Laity.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Laity at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.