

B. Estimated Burden

The Commission staff estimates that about 20 firms are subject to the testing and recordkeeping requirements of the certification regulations. The Commission staff estimates further that the annual testing and recordkeeping burden imposed by the regulations on each of these firms on average is approximately 390 hours. Thus, the total annual burden imposed by the certification regulations on all manufacturers and importers of walk-behind power mowers is about 7,800 hours.

The Commission staff estimates that the hourly wage for the time required to perform the required testing and to maintain the required records is about \$21.84, and that the annual total cost to the industry is approximately \$170,000.

C. Request for Comments

The Commission solicits written comments from all interested persons about the proposed collection of information. The Commission specifically solicits information relevant to the following topics:

- Whether the collection of information described above is necessary for the proper performance of the Commission's functions, including whether the information would have practical utility;
- Whether the estimated burden of the proposed collection of information is accurate;
- Whether the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected could be enhanced; and
- Whether the burden imposed by the collection of information could be minimized by use of automated, electronic or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 99-29631 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****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).

Title, Form Numbers, and OMB Number: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement (DFARS) Part 242, Contract Administration, Related Clauses in DFARS Part 252 and Related Forms in DFARS 253; DD Forms 375, 375C, and 1659; OMB Number 0704-0250.

Type of Request: Extension.
Number of Respondents: 54,215.
Responses Per Respondent: 1.6 (average).

Annual Responses: 86,215.
Average Burden Per Response: 3.1 hours (average).

Annual Burden Hours: 268,795.
Needs and Uses: The Department of Defense needs this information to perform contract administration functions. Contract administration offices use the information required by DFARS Subpart 242.11, and submitted on DD Forms 375 and 375C, to determine contractor progress and to identify any factors that may delay contract performance. Administrative contracting officers use the information required by DFARS Subpart 242.73 to determine the allowability of insurance/pension costs under Government contracts. Contract administration offices and transportation officers use the information required by DFARS 252.242-7003, and submitted on DD Form 1659, in providing Government bills of lading to contractors. Contracting officers use the information required by DFARS 252.242-7004 to determine if contractor material management and accounting systems conform to established DoD standards.

Affected Public: Business or Other For-Profit; Not-For-Profit Institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.
Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

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

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99-29691 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Civilian Health and Medical program of the Uniformed Services; (CHAMPUS); Fiscal Year 2000 DRG Updates**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of DRG revised rates.

SUMMARY: This notice describes the changes made to the TRICARE/CHAMPUS 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 amounts, DRG relative weights, and beneficiary cost-share per diem rates to be used for FY 2000 under the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The rates, weights and Medicare PPS changes which affect the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system contained in this notice are effective for admissions occurring on or after October 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, 16401 East Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9043.

For copies of the **Federal Register** containing this notice, contact the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, (202) 783-3238. The charge for the **Federal Register** is \$1.50 for each issue payable by check or money order to the Superintendent of Documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marty Maxey, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, TMA, telephone (303) 676-3627. To obtain copies of this document, see the **ADDRESSES** section above. Questions regarding payment of specific claims under the TRICARE/CHAMPUS 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/CHAMPUS, is that the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system is modeled on the Medicare PPS, and that, whenever practicable, the TRICARE/CHAMPUS system will follow the same rules that apply to the Medicare PPS. HCFA 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/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 we have 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. Grouping for all other DRGs under the TRICARE/CHAMPUS system is identical to the Medicare PPS.

For FY 2000, 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 July 30, 1999, 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 2000, 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 2000, 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 \$12,827 (wage adjusted). The marginal cost factor for cost outliers continues to be 80 percent.

E. Blood Clotting Factor

TRICARE/CHAMPUS will add HCPCS code J7191 (clotting factor, porcine) to the list of covered blood clotting factor for hemophilia patients and adopt changes to the payment rates as outlined in HCFA's July 30, 1999, final rule, effective for admissions on or after October 1, 1999.

F. Hospitals Excluded From the Prospective Payment System

TRICARE/CHAMPUS will adopt the changes outlined in HCFA's July 30, 1999, final rule as they apply to hospitals and units excluded from the Medicare PPS.

II. Cost to Charge Ratio

For FY 2000, the cost-to-charge-ratio used for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system will be 0.5429, which is increased to 0.5489 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 0.6004.

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 2000 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 8, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99–29693 Filed 11–12–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS)

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant Section 10(a), Public Law 92–463, as amended, notice is hereby given of a forthcoming Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). The purpose of the Executive Committee Meeting is to provide transitional training to the incoming 2000 Executive Committee members and an Awards Presentation for the 1999 Executive Committee members. The Awards presentation hosted by the Secretary of Defense is opened to the public. All other portions are for training only and are not open to the public.

DATES: December 6, 1999, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: SECDEF Conference Room 3E869, The Pentagon, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Major Susan E. Kolb, ARNGUS, DACOWITS and Military Women Matters, OASD (Force Management Policy), 4000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3D769, Washington, DC 20301–4000; telephone (703) 697–2122.