

Dated: August 25, 1999.

Thomas L. Bryant,

Associate General Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology)/Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Cleanup).

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Cleanup) announces the proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by November 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Cleanup), Attention: Ms. Mary Raguso, 3400 Defense Pentagon, Washington, 20301-3400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request further information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call Ms. Mary Raguso, Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Cleanup), (703) 697-9106.

Title, Associated form, and OMB Number: Technical Assistance for

Public Participation (TAPP) Application, DD Form 2749, OMB Control Number 0704-0392.

Needs and Uses: The collection of information is necessary to identify products or services requested by community members of restoration advisory boards or technical review committees to aid in their participation in the Department of Defense's environmental restoration program, and to meet Congressional reporting requirements.

Affected Public: Not-for-Profit Institutions.

Annual Burden Hours: 1,060.

Number of Respondents: 265.

Responses to Respondent: 1.

Average Burden per Response: 4 Hour.

Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

Respondents are community members of restoration advisory boards or technical review committees requesting technical assistance to interpret scientific and engineering issues regarding the nature of environmental hazards at an installation. This assistance will assist communities in participating in the cleanup process. The information, directed by 10 U.S.C. 2705, will be used to determine the eligibility of the proposed project, begin the procurement process to obtain the requested products or services, and determine the satisfaction of community members of restoration advisory boards and technical review committees receiving the products and services.

Dated: August 24, 1999.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE Formerly Known as the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Fiscal Year 2000 Mental Health Rate Updates

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of updated mental health per diem rates.

SUMMARY: This notice provides for the updating of hospital-specific per diem rates for high volume providers and regional per diem rates for low volume providers; the updated cap per diem for

high volume providers; the beneficiary per diem cost-share amount for low volume providers for FY 2000 under the TRICARE Mental Health Per Diem Payment System; and the updated per diem rates for both full-day and half-day TRICARE Partial Hospitalization Programs for fiscal year 2000. It also corrects partial hospitalization per diem rates for fiscal year 1999 that were published September 28, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The fiscal year 2000 rates contained in this notice are effective for services occurring on or after October 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stan Regensberg, Office of Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, TRICARE Management Activity, telephone (303) 676-3742.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 6, 1988, (53 FR 34285) set forth reimbursement changes that were effective for all inpatient hospital admissions in psychiatric hospitals and exempt psychiatric units occurring on or after January 1, 1989. The final rule published in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 1993, (58 FR 35-400) set forth maximum per diem rates for all partial hospitalization admissions on or after September 29, 1993. Included in these final rules were provisions for updating reimbursement rates for each federal fiscal year. As stated in the final rules, each per diem shall be updated by the Medicare update factor for hospitals and units exempt from the Medicare Prospective Payment System. For fiscal year 2000, Medicare has recommended a rate of increase of 2.9 percent for hospitals and units excluded from the prospective payment system. TRICARE will adopt this update factor for FY 2000 as the final update factor. Hospitals and units with hospital-specific rates (hospitals and units with high TRICARE volume) and regional specific rates for psychiatric hospitals and units with low TRICARE volume will have their TRICARE rates for FY 2000 updated by 2.9 percent for FY 2000. Partial hospitalization rates for full day and half day programs will also be updated by 2.9 percent for FY 2000. The cap amount for high volume hospitals and units will also be updated by the 2.9 percent for FY 2000. The beneficiary cost-share of low volume hospitals and units will also be updated by the 2.9 percent for FY 2000. Consistent with Medicare, the wage portion of the regional rate subject to the area wage adjustment will remain at 71.1 percent for FY 2000.

The following reflect an update of 2.9 percent.

REGIONAL SPECIFIC RATES FOR PSY-
CHIATRIC HOSPITALS AND UNITS
WITH LOW TRICARE VOLUME

United States census region	Rate [@]
Northeast:	
New England	\$542
Mid-Atlantic	519
Midwest:	
East North Central	449
West North Central	424
South:	
South Atlantic	536

REGIONAL SPECIFIC RATES FOR PSY-
CHIATRIC HOSPITALS AND UNITS
WITH LOW TRICARE VOLUME—Con-
tinued

United States census region	Rate [@]
East South Central	579
West South Central	488
West:	
Mountain	487
Pacific	574

[@] Wage portion of the rate, subject to the area wage adjustment—71.1 percent

Beneficiary Cost-Share: Beneficiary cost-share (other than dependents of active duty members) for care paid on the basis of a regional per diem rate is the lower of \$144 per day or 25 percent of the hospital billed charges effective for services rendered on or after October 1, 1999.

Cap Amount: Updated cap amount for hospitals and units with high TRICARE volume is \$679 per day for FY 2000.

The following reflect an update of 2.9 percent for FY 2000.

PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION RATES FOR FULL-DAY AND HALF-DAY PROGRAMS FY 2000

United States census region	Full-day rate (6 hours or more)	Half-day rate (3–5 hours)
Northeast:		
New England (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)	\$218	\$164
Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA)	234	176
Midwest:		
East North Central (OH, IN, IL, MI, WI)	206	155
West North Central (MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS)	206	155
South:		
South Atlantic (DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL)	223	167
East South Central (KY, TN, AL, MS)	241	181
West South Central (AR, LA, TX, OK)	241	181
West:		
Mountain (MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV)	244	183
Pacific (WA, OR, CA, AK, HI)	238	179

The following reflect a correction to the partial hospitalization rates for FY 1999.

PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION RATES FOR FULL-DAY AND HALF-DAY PROGRAMS FY 1999

United States census region	Full-day rate (6 hours or more)	Half-day rate (3–5 hours)
Northeast:		
New England (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)	\$212	\$159
Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA)	227	170
Midwest:		
East North Central (OH, IN, IL, MI, WI)	200	150
West North Central (MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS)	200	150
South:		
South Atlantic (DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL)	217	163
East South Central (KY, TN, AL, MS)	234	176
West south Central (AR, LA, TX, OK)	234	176
West:		
Mountain (MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV)	237	178
Pacific (WA, OR, CA, AK, HI)	231	173

These partial hospitalization rates are the new calculated rates that reflect the 2.4 percent increase for FY 1999. The FY 2000, 2.9 percent increase, effective October 1, 1999, is applied to these new calculated rates.

Dated: August 25, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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