

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](http://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.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting agenda:**

Monday December 6, 1999.

**TIME**

1:45 p.m.

**EVENT****Executive Committee Awards**

Presentation (Secretary of Defense Conference—3E869, Please be seated by 1:30 p.m.)

Dated: November 8, 1999.

**L.M. Bynum,**

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, DoD

[FR Doc. 99-29692 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army****Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Transportable Treatment Systems for Non-Stockpile Chemical Warfare Materiel**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Public comment meeting announcement.

**SUMMARY:** This announcement provides the dates, times, and locations of regional public meetings to be held in the vicinity of Anchorage Alaska; Salt Lake City, Utah; Edgewood, Maryland; San Antonio, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Huntsville, Alabama; Alexandria, Louisiana; Santa Rosa, California; and Tampa, Florida. The purpose of these meetings is to solicit public comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) on Transportable Treatment Systems for Non-Stockpile Chemical Warfare Materiel. A notice of availability of the DPEIS was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 56774) on October 21, 1999. The PEIS is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended.

**DATES:** Public comments on the information provided in the DPEIS must be submitted by February 4, 2000 to ensure consideration in the Final PEIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions about the meetings, requests for information, or requests for a bound copy of the document or a CD-ROM should be directed to: Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN: SFAE-CD-NP (Mr. John K. Giesecking/PEIS), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-4005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John K. Giesecking, Office of the Program

Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN: SFAE-CD-NP, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-4005 or by calling 1-800-488-0648.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** To facilitate public comment on the DPEIS, the Army will hold regional public meetings according to the following dates, times, and locations:

Alaska: November 9, 1999, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, 401 East 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska;

Utah: November 16, 1999, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Airport, 1659 West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah;

Maryland: November 23, 1999, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Richlin Ballroom, 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood, Maryland;

Texas: November 30, 1999, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sam Houston Room—Officer's Club, Fort Sam Houston, Texas;

Indiana: December 6, 1999, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Embassy Suites Downtown, 110 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana;

Alabama: December 14, 1999, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Research Park, 5903 University Drive, Huntsville, Alabama;

Louisiana: January 4, 2000, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Holiday Inn—Convention Center, 701 Fourth Street, Alexandria, Louisiana;

California: January 11, 2000, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Double Tree Hotel, Sonoma County, Double Tree Drive, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa California;

Florida: January 19, 2000, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Holiday Inn City Centre, 111 West Fortune Street, Tampa, Florida.

These meetings will utilize a public availability session format where the public can obtain information, discuss concerns, make comments, and meet with Army and other Government representatives on a one-on-one basis. The preceding meeting dates, times, and locations will also be announced in appropriate news media.

E-mail comments or requests should be directed to:

john.giesecking@pmcd.apgea.army.mil. The DPEIS can also be accessed via the following World Wide Web at site: <http://www-pmcd.apgea.army.mil/nscmp/index.html>.

Dated: November 8, 1999.

**Raymond J. Fatz,**

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA, (I&E).

[FR Doc. 99-29717 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army****Availability of U.S. Patents for Non-Exclusive, Exclusive, or Partially-Exclusive Licensing**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, Maryland.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6, announcement is made of the availability of the following U.S. patent for non-exclusive, partially exclusive or exclusive licensing. The listed patent has been assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Army, Washington, DC. This patent covers a wide variety of technical arts including: A Warhead for Air Defense Missiles.

Under the authority of Section 11(a)(2) of the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-502) and Section 207 of Title 35, United States Code, the Department of the Army as represented by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory wish the license the U.S. patent listed below in a non-exclusive, exclusive or partially exclusive manner to any party interested in manufacturing, using, and/or selling devices or processes covered by this patent.

*Title:* Flat-Sided Warhead.

*Inventors:* George T. Boswell and William G. Rueb.

*Patent Number:* 5,965,838.

*Issued Date:* October 12, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Norma Cammaratta, Technology Transfer Office, AMSRL-CS-TT, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, MD 20783-1197 tel: (301) 394-2952; fax: (301) 394-5818.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** None.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-29730 Filed 11-12-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army****Availability of U.S. Patents for Non-Exclusive, Exclusive, or Partially-Exclusive Licensing**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, Maryland.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6, announcement is made of the availability of the following U.S. patent for non-exclusive, partially exclusive or