

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force—Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice of Availability, Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force's "Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning".

SUMMARY: On June 12, 2009, the President established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force was charged with, within 180 days, developing a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning.

On December 9, 2009, the Task Force submitted its Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (Interim Framework) to the President. To allow for additional public engagement and comment before the President makes any final decision on the Interim Framework, the Task Force endorsed issuing it for public review and comment.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before February 12, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The Task Force Interim Framework is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans>. Comments on the Task Force Interim Framework should be submitted electronically to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans> or in writing to The Council on Environmental Quality, Attn: Michael Weiss, 722 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Weiss, Deputy Associate Director for Ocean and Coastal Policy, at (202) 456-3892.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 12, 2009, President Obama issued a Memorandum to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies that established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. That Presidential memo charged the Task Force with, within 90 days, developing recommendations that include: (1) A national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes; (2) a United States framework for policy coordination of efforts to improve stewardship of the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes; and (3) an implementation strategy that identifies and prioritizes a set of objectives the United States should pursue to meet the

objectives of a national policy. On September 17, 2009, the Task Force's Interim Report addressing these three items was issued for 30 days public comment. Comments were requested to be submitted by October 17, 2009.

The Task Force was also charged with, within 180 days, developing a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning. The memorandum provides that the framework should be "a comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based approach that addresses conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources consistent with international law, including customary international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."

In response to this direction, the Task Force has completed its *Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning* (Interim Framework). The Interim Framework proposes a new, integrated approach to better determine how the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes are sustainably used and protected now and for future generations. It offers a foundation for coastal and marine spatial planning in the United States, and describes a flexible path forward for the regional development and implementation of comprehensive and ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial plans. The Interim Report is now available at the Council on Environmental Quality Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans>.

Public comments are requested on or before February 12, 2010.

Dated: December 14, 2009.

Nancy H. Sutley,

Chair, Council on Environmental Quality.

[FR Doc. E9-30071 Filed 12-17-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3125-W0-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DoD-2008-HA-0167]

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 January 19, 2010.

Title and OMB Number: Certification of Non-contributory TRICARE Supplemental Insurance Plan; OMB Control Number 0720-TBD.

Type of Request: New.

Number of Respondents: 1,500.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 1,500.

Average Burden per Response: 10 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 250 hours.

Needs and Uses: Section 707 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 added section 1097c to Title 10. Section 1097c prohibits employers from offering financial or other incentives to certain TRICARE-eligible employees to not enroll in an employer-offered group-health plan. In other words, employers may no longer offer TRICARE supplemental insurance plans as part of an employee benefit package. Employers may, however, offer TRICARE supplemental insurance plans as part of an employee benefit package provided the plan is not paid for in whole or in part by the employer and is not endorsed by the employer. When such TRICARE supplemental plans are offered, the employer must properly document that they did not provide any payment for the benefit nor receive any direct or indirect consideration or compensation for offering the benefit; the employer's only involvement is providing the administrative support. That certification will be provided upon request to the Department of Defense.

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. John Kraemer.

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

You may also submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any

personal identifiers or contact information.

DOD Clearance Officer: Ms. Patricia Toppings.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Ms. Toppings at WHS/ESD/ Information Management Division, 1777 North Kent Street, RPN, Suite 11000, Arlington, VA 22209-2133.

Dated: December 4, 2009.

Patricia L. Toppings,

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

[FR Doc. E9-30088 Filed 12-17-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of an Extension of a TRICARE Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)/TRICARE Management Activity, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of extension of demonstration project.

SUMMARY: This notice advises interested parties of the extension of a Military Health System (MHS) demonstration project entitled "TRICARE Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska." The original demonstration notice was published on May 18, 2004 (69 FR 28124-28125), and described a demonstration project to exempt the underwriting provisions for the cost of civilian health care in the State of Alaska from the TRICARE managed care support contract for the Western Region. The demonstration was to be conducted for up to 5 years after the start of health care delivery under the contract and therefore, was scheduled to end on March 31, 2009. On February 23, 2009, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 8068-8069) to extend the demonstration for 1 additional year. As the rulemaking process has not yet been completed, the demonstration project will now be extended for 1 additional year (March 31, 2011).

There is no cost impact that is caused by this extension.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The extension of the demonstration will be effective April 1, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael O'Bar, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)—TRICARE Management Activity, TRICARE Policy and Operations Directorate, 5111 Leesburg Pike, Suite

810, Falls Church, VA 22041-3206; telephone (703) 681-0039.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

For additional information on the TRICARE Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska, please see 74 FR 8068-8069. The demonstration notice focused on the unique situation involved in the delivery of health care services in the State of Alaska, which cannot be addressed fully by applying all of the at-risk standards that apply to the TRICARE managed care support contracts under which services are provided in the other 49 States without some modification. Under the extended demonstration, the current Western Region managed care support contractor will continue to be exempt from the underwriting provisions for the cost of civilian health care in the State of Alaska. The contractor shall provide all the services required for Alaska as specified in the TRICARE Operations Manual, Chapter 23, but will not be responsible for the underwriting fee associated with providing those services under that chapter. All other provisions contained in the TRICARE managed care support contract, TRICARE Operations Manual (6010.51-M), TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.54-M), TRICARE Systems Manual (7950.1-M), and TRICARE Reimbursement Manual (6010.55-M), shall apply in Alaska.

B. Description of Extension of Demonstration Project

The demonstration project will now be extended for 1 additional year (March 31, 2011).

Dated: December 15, 2009.

Patricia L. Toppings,

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

[FR Doc. E9-30089 Filed 12-17-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Extension of Provider Reimbursement Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of demonstration extension.

SUMMARY: This notice provides an extension of the demonstration project in the State of Alaska for individual provider payment rates. Under the demonstration, payment rates for physicians and other non-institutional

individual professional providers in the State of Alaska have been set at a rate higher than the Medicare rate. Further, the enhanced portion of the State of Alaska demonstration that provides for reimbursement of 101 percent of reasonable costs for inpatient and outpatient facilities of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) is terminated because it is no longer necessary based on publication of the TRICARE Reimbursement of CAHs final rule (74 FR 44752) on August 31, 2009.

DATES: The portion of the demonstration regarding payment rates for physicians and other non-institutional providers is extended through December 31, 2010. The CAH portion of the demonstration shall end on November 30, 2009.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glenn J. Corn, TRICARE Management Activity, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Branch, telephone (303) 676-3566.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 20, 2006, DoD published a Notice of a TRICARE demonstration project for the State of Alaska, with an effective date of January 1, 2007 (71 FR 67113), to set payment rates for physicians and other non-institutional individual professional providers in the State of Alaska at a rate higher than the Medicare rate. The demonstration was effective January 1, 2007, for a period of three years, ending on December 31, 2009. Since that time, DoD has determined that increasing provider payment rates (factor rate increase) in Alaska, across all services, has shown mixed results on provider participation, beneficiary access to care, cost of health care services, military readiness, and morale and welfare. The Agency feels an extension of the demonstration is needed to provide more time to fully evaluate and implement a comprehensive framework for managing TRICARE in the State of Alaska. In the meantime, the Agency is looking toward developing a more comprehensive, updated management and reimbursement strategy that will provide a foundation for developing and implementing a comprehensive long-term plan through collaboration with Federal Service Partners for mutually accepted Federal rates. The demonstration continues to be conducted under statutory authority provided in 10 United States Code 1092.

Subsequent to the publication of the initial notice creating the increased rates