

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****DoD Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Board of Actuaries; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting****AGENCY:** DoD.**ACTION:** Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing this notice to announce a meeting of the DoD Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Board of Actuaries. This meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: Friday, July 31, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: 4800 Mark Center Drive, Conference Room 18, Level B1, Alexandria, VA 22350.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathleen Ludwig at the Defense Human Resource Activity, DoD Office of the Actuary, 4800 Mark Center Drive, STE 05E22, Alexandria, VA 22350-7000. Phone: 571-372-1993. Email: Kathleen.A.Ludwig.civ@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is being held 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.

Purpose of the Meeting: The purpose of the meeting is to execute the provisions of 10 U.S.C. chapter 56 (10 U.S.C. 1114 *et seq.*). The Board shall review DoD actuarial methods and assumptions to be used in the valuation of benefits under DoD retiree health care programs for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries.

Agenda

1. Meeting Objective

Approve actuarial assumptions and methods needed for calculating:

- i. FY 2017 per capita full-time and part-time normal cost amounts
 - ii. September 30, 2014, unfunded liability (UFL)
 - iii. October 1, 2015, Treasury UFL amortization and normal cost payments
2. Trust Fund Update
 3. Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund Update
 4. September 30, 2013, Actuarial Valuation Results
 5. September 30, 2014, Actuarial Valuation Proposals
 6. Decisions

Actuarial assumptions and methods needed for calculating:

- a. FY 2017 per capita full-time and part-time normal cost amounts

b. September 30, 2014, unfunded liability (UFL)

c. October 1, 2015, Treasury UFL amortization and normal cost payments

Public's Accessibility to the Meeting: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b and 41 CFR 102-3.140 through 102-3.165 and the availability of space, this meeting is open to the public. Seating is on a first come basis. The Mark Center is an annex of the Pentagon. Those without a valid DoD Common Access Card must contact Kathleen Ludwig at 571-372-1993 no later than June 30, 2015. Failure to make the necessary arrangements will result in building access being denied. It is strongly recommended that attendees plan to arrive at the Mark Center at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Pursuant to 41 CFR 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 comments to the Board about its mission and topics pertaining to this public meeting.

Committee's Designated Federal Officer or Point of Contact: Persons desiring to attend the DoD Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Board of Actuaries meeting or make an oral presentation or submit a written statement for consideration at the meeting, must notify Kathleen Ludwig at (571) 372-1993, or Kathleen.A.Ludwig.civ@mail.mil, by June 30, 2015.

Dated: February 6, 2015.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****TRICARE; Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Fiscal Year 2015 Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) Updates****AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, DoD.**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 data necessary to update the FY 2015 rates.

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 discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Defense Health Agency, TRICARE, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Office, 16401 East Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9066.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amber L. Butterfield, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Office, TRICARE, telephone (303) 676-3565.

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