

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 23, 2015.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for 21 January 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission offices at the National Building Museum, Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 401 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20001-2728. Items of discussion may include buildings, parks and memorials.

Draft agendas and additional information regarding the Commission are available on our Web site: www.cfa.gov. Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address; by emailing cfastaff@cfa.gov; or by calling 202-504-2200. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated: December 18, 2015 in Washington, DC.

Thomas Luebke,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE; Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Fiscal Year 2016 Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) Updates

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, 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 2016 rates.

DATES: Effective Date: 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, 2015.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon L. Seelmeyer, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Section, TRICARE, telephone (303) 676-3690. 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 in this notice.

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 information (that is, sex, age, and

discharge status). The Grouper used for the TRICARE DRG-based payment system is the same as the current Medicare Grouper with certain modifications. For FY 2008, Medicare implemented their Medicare-Severity DRG (MS-DRG) based payment system. TRICARE, however, continued with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services DRG-based (CMS-DRG) payment system for FY 2008. For FY 2009, the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system shall be modeled on the MS-DRG system, with the following modifications.

The MS-DRG system consolidated the 43 pediatric CMS DRGs that were defined based on age less than or equal to 17 into the most clinically similar MS-DRGs. In their Inpatient Prospective Payment System final rule for MS-DRGs, Medicare stated for their population these pediatric CMS DRGs contained a very low volume of Medicare patients. At the same time, Medicare encouraged private insurers and other non-Medicare payers to make refinements to MS-DRGs to better suit the needs of the patients they serve. Consequently, TRICARE finds it appropriate to retain the pediatric CMS-DRGs for our population. TRICARE is also retaining the TRICARE-specific DRGs for neonates and substance use.

For FY09, TRICARE will use the MS-DRG v26.0 pre-MDC hierarchy, with the exception that MDC 15 is applied after DRG 011-012 and before MDC 24.

For FY10, there are no additional or deleted DRGs.

For FY 11, the added DRGs and deleted DRGs are the same as those included in CMS' final rule published on August 16, 2010. That is, DRG 009 is deleted; DRGs 014 and 015 are being added.

For FY 12, the added DRGs and deleted DRGs are the same as those included in CMS' final rule published on August 18, 2011 (76 FR 51476-51846). That is, DRG 015 is deleted; DRGs 016 and 017 are being added.

For FY 2013 there are no new, revised, or deleted DRGs.

For FY 2014 there are no new, revised, or deleted DRGs.

For FY 2015 the added, deleted, and revised DRGs are the same as those included in the CMS' final rule published on August 22, 2014 (79 FR 49880) with the exception of endovascular cardiac valve replacement for which CMS added DRGs 266/267 and TRICARE added DRGs 317/318 because the TRICARE Grouper already has DRGs 266/267 assigned to pediatric procedures.

For FY2016 the added, deleted, and revised DRGs are the same as those