

included in the CMS' final rule published on August 17, 2015 (80 FR 49326) with the exception of cardiovascular procedure for which CMS added DRGs 268–272 and TRICARE added DRGs 275–279 because the TRICARE Grouper already has DRGs 268–271 assigned to pediatric procedures.

B. Wage Index and Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board Guidelines

TRICARE will continue to use the same wage index amounts used for the Medicare PPS. TRICARE will also duplicate all changes with regard to the wage index for specific hospitals that are redesignated by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board. In addition, TRICARE will continue to utilize the out-commuting wage index adjustment.

C. Revision of the Labor-Related Share of the Wage Index

TRICARE is adopting CMS' percentage of labor related share of the standardized amount. For wage index values greater than 1.0, the labor related portion of the Adjusted Standardized Amount (ASA) shall continue to equal 69.6 percent. For wage index values less than or equal to 1.0 the labor related portion of the ASA shall continue to equal 62 percent.

D. Hospital Market Basket

TRICARE will update the adjusted standardized amounts according to the final updated hospital market basket used for the Medicare PPS for all hospitals subject to the TRICARE DRG-based payment system according to CMS' August 17, 2015, final rule. For FY 2016, the market basket is 2.4 percent. Note: Medicare's FY 2016 market basket index adjusts according to hospitals' compliance with quality data and electronic health record meaningful use submissions. These adjustments do not apply to the TRICARE Program.

E. Outlier Payments

Since TRICARE does not include capital payments in our DRG-based payments (TRICARE reimburses hospitals for their capital costs as reported annually to the contractor on a pass through basis), we will use the fixed loss cost outlier threshold calculated by CMS for paying cost outliers in the absence of capital prospective payments. For FY 2016, the TRICARE fixed loss cost outlier threshold is based on the sum of the applicable DRG-based payment rate plus any amounts payable for Indirect Medical Education (IDME) plus a fixed

dollar amount. Thus, for FY 2016, in order for a case to qualify for cost outlier payments, the costs must exceed the TRICARE DRG base payment rate (wage adjusted) for the DRG plus the IDME payment (if applicable) plus \$20,758 (wage adjusted). The marginal cost factor for cost outliers continues to be 80 percent.

F. National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs

The FY 2016 TRICARE National Operating Standard Cost as a Share of Total Costs (NOSCASTC) used in calculating the cost outlier threshold is 0.921. TRICARE uses the same methodology as CMS for calculating the NOSCASTC; however, the variables are different because TRICARE uses national cost-to-charge ratios while CMS uses hospital specific cost-to-charge ratios.

G. Indirect Medical Education (IDME) Adjustment

Passage of the Medical Modernization Act of 2003 modified the formula multipliers to be used in the calculation of IDME adjustment factor. Since the IDME formula used by TRICARE does not include disproportionate share hospitals (DSHs), the variables in the formula are different than Medicare's, however; the percentage reductions that will be applied to Medicare's formula will also be applied to the TRICARE IDME formula. The multiplier for the IDME adjustment factor for TRICARE for FY 2016 is 1.02.

H. Cost to Charge Ratio

TRICARE uses a national Medicare cost-to-charge ratio (CCR). For FY 2016, the Medicare CCR used for the TRICARE DRG-based payment system for acute care hospitals and neonates will be 0.2631. This is based on a weighted average of the hospital-specific Medicare CCRs (weighted by the number of Medicare discharges) after excluding hospitals not subject to the TRICARE DRG system (Sole Community Hospitals, Indian Health Service hospitals, and hospitals in Maryland). The Medicare CCR is used to calculate cost outlier payments, except for children's hospitals. The Medicare CCR has been increased by a factor of 1.0065 to include an additional allowance for bad debt. The 1.0065 factor reflects the provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. For children's hospital cost outliers, the CCR used is 0.2840.

I. Pricing of Claims

The final rule published on May 21, 2014 (79 FR 29085) set forth all final

claims with discharge dates of October 1, 2014, or later and reimbursed under the TRICARE DRG-Based payment system, are to be priced using the rules, weights, and rates in effect as of the date of discharge. Prior to this, all final claims were priced using the rules, weights, and rates in effect as of the date of admission.

J. Updated Rates and Weights

The updated rates and weights are accessible through the Internet at <http://www.health.mil/rates>. The implementing regulations for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system are in 32 CFR part 199.

Dated: December 22, 2015.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

National Commission on the Future of the Army; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting.

SUMMARY: The DoD is publishing this notice to announce a meeting of the National Commission on the Future of the Army (“the Commission”). The meeting will be closed to the public.

DATES: Date of the Closed Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Address of Closed Meeting, January 13, 2016: Rm 12110, 12th Floor, Zachary Taylor Building, 2530 Crystal Dr., Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Don Tison, Designated Federal Officer, National Commission on the Future of the Army, 700 Army Pentagon, Room 3E406, Washington, DC 20310–0700, Email: dfo.public@ncfa.ncr.gov. Desk (703) 692–9099. Facsimile (703) 697–8242.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting will be held under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) 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 Meetings:

During the closed meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, the

Commission will review the comments from the OSD security review about the draft Commission report.

Agendas:

January 13, 2016—Closed Meeting: The Commission will hold a closed meeting to review the Commission's report for content after recommend edits from the OSD security review. All presentations and resulting discussion are classified.

Meeting Accessibility:

In accordance with applicable law, 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) and 41 CFR 102–3.155, the DoD has determined that the meeting scheduled for January 13, 2016 will be closed to the public. Specifically, the Assistant Deputy Chief Management Officer, with the coordination of the DoD FACA Attorney, has determined in writing that this meeting will be closed to the public because it will discuss matters covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1).

Written Comments:

Pursuant to section 10(a)(3) of the FACA and 41 CFR 102–3.105(j) and 102–3.140, the public or interested organizations may submit written comments to the Commission in response to the stated agenda of the closed meeting or the Commission's mission. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) will review all submitted written statements. Written comments should be submitted to Mr. Donald Tison, DFO, via facsimile or electronic mail, the preferred modes of submission. Each page of the comment must include the author's name, title or affiliation, address, and daytime phone number. All comments received before Tuesday, January 12, 2016, will be provided to the Commission before the January 13, 2016, meeting. All contact information may be found in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Additional Information

The DoD sponsor for the Commission is the Deputy Chief Management Officer. The Commission is tasked to submit a report, containing a comprehensive study and recommendations, by February 1, 2016 to the President of the United States and the Congressional defense committees. The report will contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission, together with its recommendations for such legislation and administrative actions it may consider appropriate in light of the results of the study. The comprehensive study of the structure of the Army will determine whether, and how, the structure should be modified to best fulfill current and anticipated mission

requirements for the Army in a manner consistent with available resources.

Dated: December 22, 2015.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Charter Renewal of Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committees

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Renewal of Federal Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing this notice to announce that it is renewing the charter for the Secretary of the Navy Advisory Panel (“the Panel”).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Freeman, Advisory Committee Management Officer for the Department of Defense, 703–692–5952.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This committee's charter is being renewed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended) and 41 CFR 102–3.50(d).

The Panel is a discretionary Federal advisory committee that provides the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, through the Secretary of the Navy, independent advice and recommendations on critical matters concerning the Department of the Navy.

The Panel's focus will include Department of the Navy administration and management, recruitment and training, equipment acquisition and maintenance, military and civilian manpower systems, basing and support infrastructure, and logistical support. The Panel will also focus on research and development matters confronting the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps and on matters pertaining to preserving the history and heritage of the Naval Services.

The Panel shall be composed of no more than 15 members. The members will be eminent authorities in the fields of science, research, finance, history, engineering, business, and industry.

The appointment of Panel members will be authorized by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and administratively certified by the Secretary of the Navy, for a term of service of one-to-four years, and their appointments will be renewed on an

annual basis in accordance with DoD policies and procedures. Members of the Panel who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees will be appointed as experts or consultants pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109 to serve as special government employee (SGE) members. Panel members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees will serve as regular government employee (RGE) members. No member, unless authorized by the Secretary of Defense, may serve more than two consecutive terms of service on the Panel, to include its subcommittees, or serve on more than two DoD federal advisory committees at one time.

All members of the Panel are appointed to provide advice on behalf of the Government on the basis of their best judgment without representing any particular point of view and in a manner that is free from conflict of interest.

Except for reimbursement of official Panel-related travel and per diem, Panel members serve without compensation.

The Secretary of the Navy has the delegated authority to appoint the Panel's Chair from among the membership previously authorized by the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The DoD, as necessary and consistent with the Panel's mission and DoD policies and procedures, may establish subcommittees, task forces, or working groups to support the Panel.

Establishment of subcommittees will be based upon a written determination, to include terms of reference, by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of the Navy, as the DoD Sponsor.

Such subcommittees shall not work independently of the Panel and shall report all their recommendations and advice solely to the Panel for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees, task forces, or working groups have no authority to make decisions and recommendations, verbally or in writing, on behalf of the Panel. No subcommittee or any of its members can update or report, verbally or in writing, directly to the DoD or any Federal officers or employees. If a majority of Panel members are appointed to a particular subcommittee, then that subcommittee may be required to operate pursuant to the same notice and openness requirements of FACA which govern the Panel's operations.

Pursuant to Secretary of Defense policy, the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to administratively certify the appointment of subcommittee members if the Secretary of Defense or