

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Office of the Secretary****Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Health Affairs, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

In accordance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces the proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received June 4, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the information collection should be sent to TRICARE Management Activity, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, 16401 East Centretech Parkway, ATTN: Marty Maxey, Aurora, CO 80011-9066.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection, please write to the above address or call TRICARE Management Activity, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, at (303) 676-3627.

*Title of Information Collection:* Criteria for TRICARE/CHAMPUS Coverage of Organ Transplantation.

*Needs and Uses:* TRICARE/CHAMPUS participating hospitals must file a narrative application to be approved for coverage and payment of organ transplants performed on TRICARE/CHAMPUS beneficiaries.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for profit.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 100.

*Number of Respondents:* 1.

*Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 100 hours.

*Frequency:* Collected at the time of initial application. A facility that wishes

to obtain TRICARE/CHAMPUS coverage for organ transplantation shall submit a narrative application for approval and, once approved, report events or changes that would affect its approved status.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Summary of Information Collection**

TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), formerly known as OCHAMPUS, is in the process of submitting a final rule for publication in the **Federal Register**, clarifying coverage of organ transplants. 32 CFR Part 199(e)(5) allows coverage for organ transplant procedures provided the procedure is in accordance with accepted professional medical standards and is not considered unproven. In the case of organ transplantation, we believe many other factors are related to the safety and efficacy of the transplant. Thus, coverage of organ transplantation requires detailed criteria to identify the context in which organ transplantation can be considered medically reasonable and necessary. The requested information is needed to ensure a hospital meets the criteria to qualify for CHAMPUS coverage and payment of transplants performed by the facility.

If a facility is a Medicare approved transplant center, TRICARE/CHAMPUS recognizes the facility as a TRICARE/CHAMPUS approved center for the specific organ for which the facility has received approval. If a facility is not Medicare approved, the hospital must provide information on patient selection, patient management, commitment, facility plans, experience and survival rates, maintenance of data, organ procurement, laboratory procedures and billing when it applies to TRICARE/CHAMPUS for a coverage determination.

This notice contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Office of Management and Budget approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. The information collection concerns the requirement that a facility that wishes to obtain TRICARE/CHAMPUS coverage for organ transplantation submit an application for approval and, once approved, report events or changes that would affect its approved status. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is expected to be 100 hours.

There are no strict formats facilities must use in applying for coverage. The application is primarily narrative and has no standard format.

Dated: March 22, 2001.

**Patricia Toppings,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 5001-10-W**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Office of the Secretary****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).

*Title, Form, and OMB Number:* Involuntary Allotment Application; DD Form 2653; OMB Number 0704-0367.

*Type of Request:* Revision.

*Number of Respondents:* 9,314.

*Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Annual Responses:* 9,314.

*Average Burden per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 4,657.

*Needs and Uses:* This information is collected by the Department of Defense to initiate an involuntary allotment from the pay of a member of the Uniformed Services for indebtedness owed a third party as determined by the final judgment of a court. This requirement was created by "The Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993," Public Law 103-94. The form requires the creditor to provide identifying information on the member of the Uniformed Services, certify a judgment was obtained, and that the member's rights under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act were protected.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; business or other for-profit.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Mr. Edward C. Springer.

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

*DOD Clearance Officer:* Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.