

# FACT SHEET

# PCOS

## PURCHASED CARE OPERATING SYSTEM



**PCOS is comprised of the TRICARE Encounter Data (TED) and Patient Encounter Process Reporting (PEPR) and is used for processing and analyzing all purchased health care under TRICARE.**

Purchased health care is a subset of services provided under TRICARE by non-military physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, and suppliers. The TED tool processes claims related to these services and the PEPR system analyzes and generates reports on information obtained from TED. Both of these actions allow PCOS to serve as a single point of data retrieval for analysis and reporting of purchased care claims valued in excess of \$18 billion annually.

All levels of the Military Health System use PCOS data and reports to maintain budget efficiencies, detect fraud, and perform audits. The system also provides key information to service branch representatives, Congress, and the Department of Justice about the delivery of health care to the DHA's 9.6 million enrolled beneficiaries.

### Key Features

- ▶ Maintains accurate data, tailored queries, and reliable reports
- ▶ Validates claims within 24 hours to support payment to health care providers within 30 days
- ▶ Tracks and reports on fraudulent claims, duplicate claims, and improper payment

### Key Benefits

- ▶ Enables the prompt payment of civilian health care provider claims
- ▶ Supports cost-effective government spending on health care

