THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

OCT 27 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY

                     SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY

                     SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: System Interoperability Requirements with the Regional Managed Care Support Contracts

Reference is made to your memorandum, subject as above, dated 5 June 1995. We agree with the importance of systems interoperability between the Composite Health Care System (CHCS) Managed Care Program (MCP) module and the Managed Care Support (MCS) contractor's information systems. There are two components to this interoperability requirement: (1) use of the CHCS MCP Module by MCS contractors and (2) the ability to electronically exchange data between CHCS and the MCS contractors. Personnel from the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Services Financing), Defense Medical Information Management (DMIM), and your Managed Care Offices have developed the contract language necessary to support these requirements.

The MCS contractors will be required to use CHCS for enrollment, provider network, collection of other health insurance and, at the Lead Agent's option, health care finder. Using CHCS as the primary enrollment system will necessitate the sharing of information between CHCS and the contractor's system; therefore, a standard data interchange link will be required for CHCS. As regional contracts are awarded, the contractors will develop their half of the link to tie their systems in with CHCS. These data exchange requirements, along with the appropriate contract language requiring the MCS contractor to use CHCS, have been sent to OCHAMPUS for inclusion in the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Regions 1, 2, and 5. Once the data interchange link is successfully tested, action to retrofit the CHCS MCP contract requirements and the standard data interchange link into the MCS contracts will be implemented.

Edward D. Martin, M.D.
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

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