THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAR 11 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY CHIEF, BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Use of DoD Data Standards in MHSS Migration Systems

During FY 1995, Health Affairs, in collaboration with other DoD communities, made significant strides in developing data standards for the Military Health Services System (MHSS). We currently have 1311 DoD approved data standards and are continually adding to this total. The data standards, definitions, approval status, relationships and supporting information can be found in the MHSS Functional Area Model - Data (FAM-D), Version 5.0 and the Defense Data Dictionary System (DDDS). Attachment 1 provides information on obtaining a copy of the FAM-D and gaining access to the DDDS. Attachment 2 contains a list of the 1311 approved data standards and their definitions.

To achieve information exchange among data bases and interoperability in MHSS systems as well as data integrity, these data standards must be implemented expeditiously. Effective immediately, all new systems development (e.g., CEIS, CIW, CIS, CCQAS, DDSS, etc.) and new development in deployed migration systems (e.g., DMLSS, DBSS, CHCS, etc.) will use DoD data standards and be in accordance with the data architecture defined in the MHSS FAM-D. If a system needs a data element for which an approved DoD standard does not exist, it must be proposed to Defense Medical Information Management (DMIM) as a new data standard and a change to the MHSS FAM-D. Change procedures are documented in Section 4 of the MHSS FAM-D, Version 5.0.

For deployed migration systems, program managers are directed to develop a plan for implementing, to the maximum extent feasible during future version releases, DoD data standards for the data elements shared between systems. These plans should be based on implementation costs, accrued benefits and the migration strategy for each system. The data standardization plans will become part of the migration plans for the individual system. DMIM is directed to develop guidance and tools to assist program managers in their planning for implementation of data standards and monitor compliance with this memorandum.

Please submit the name and phone number of one point-of-contact for each MHSS migration system and/or system under development under your cognizance (Attachment 3), to Mr. Dave Orris, (703) 681-5611, fax (703) 681-8845, e-mail: david.orris@ha.osd.mil within 10 days from the date of this letter. Each point-of-contact will be responsible for planning for and implementing data standards.

Edward D. Martin

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

HA POLICY 96-036

Attachments:
As stated

Attachment 1

MHSS Functional Area Model - Data (FAM-D), Version 5.0

The MHSS FAM-D documents the data model for the MHSS in IDEF1X notation using IE:Advantage, a product of Information Engineering Services Corporation. It is presented in a number of subject area views and contains an entity report and domain report. The model is a living model and Version 5.0 represents a snapshot in time as of November 1995. Version 6.0 is scheduled for April 1996. Quarterly versioning is anticipated.

1. or a hard copy and/or diskette copy of the MHSS FAM-D, Version 5.0 contact Sherry Schaefer at (703) 681-5611, e-mail: sherry.schaefer@ha.osd.mil.

2. To view and print the model on the Health Information Resources Service (HIRS) World Wide Web Home Page:

- Access the HIRS Home Page at http://www.hirs.osd.mil/newhome/index.html
- Click on HIRS Services (middle on main graphic)
- Select MHSS as Group and Data Model as Information Category
- Click on the Retrieve command button
- Select MHSS Functional Area Model - Data
- Click on the Retrieve command button to gain access

Defense Data Dictionary System (DDDS)

The DDDS contains DoD developmental, candidate and approved data standards and their associated information (metadata). You will need to check the DDDS for the most recent information and approval status.

1. To obtain an ID and password for the DDDS, you may request a form from Dave Orris at (703) 681-5611, e-mail: david.orris@ha.osd.mil. The form will soon be on the HA World Wide Web Home Page.

2. To obtain a copy of the Personal Computer Access Tool (PCAT), the personal computer version of the information in DDDS on CD-ROM, you may complete the form on the HA World Wide Web Home Page or request a form from Dave Orris at (703) 681-5611, e-mail: david.orris@ha.osd.mil

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