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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

17 June 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR: MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Interim Policy Guidance for HEAR Program

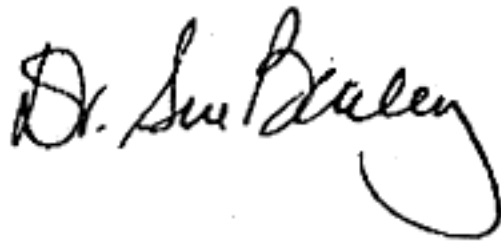
As implementation of the Health Enrollment/Evaluation Assessment Review (HEAR) Program continues, I have become aware that guidance is needed among our facilities and regions to assure consistency across the system. A multidisciplinary work group with representatives from Health Affairs, the TRICARE Management Activity, and the Services has been appointed to identify HEAR program management improvements. Also, the Y2K compliance problem in HEAR 1.x is being addressed.

This memorandum provides interim HEAR program guidance until the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) and other pertinent policy documents are published. This guidance supersedes information related to HEAR in HA Policy 97-003, Policy for TRICARE Health Enrollment Assessment Review (HEAR) Survey, dated 11 Oct 1996, and HA Policy 98-027, Put Prevention into Practice (PIIP) dated 31 Mar 98.

Until the deployment of HEAR 2.x is complete, the following policy guidance is provided:

- The HEAR is a critical component of our force health protection and population health management program and remains the TRICARE health assessment survey instrument.
- The requirement for annually repeating the HEAR 1.0 questionnaire is suspended.
- TRICARE Prime beneficiaries, including military members, between the ages of 17 and 64 years are expected to complete a HEAR questionnaire upon initial enrollment. Administration of this requirement will continue in accordance with current managed care support contracts and within Service guidelines.
- Information on individuals obtained from the HEAR is considered "medical information" and will be governed by the Privacy Act provisions for medical records. Aggregate data and data not individually identified may be used for research and health care delivery management.

The point of contact for HEAR policy development is Ms. Lynn Pahland, Director of Health Promotion and Preventive Services, OASD (HA), (703) 681-1703, Lynn.Pahland@ha.osd.mil. Implementation issues may be sent to COL Theresa Baker, Chair, TMA HEAR Integrated Project Team, at Theresa.Baker@tma.osd.mil. Clinical implementation issues may be sent Teresa.Sommese@tma.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Sue Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Sue Bailey

HA Policy 99-00017

[\[Top\]](#)

Last update: 7/12/1999