



## THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

### HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 27 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER  
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER  
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(MANPOWER, RESERVE AFFAIRS, INSTALLATIONS  
AND ENVIRONMENT)  
HEALTH AND SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: Health Affairs Policy for Referral Management of Disability Compensation and Pension Examinations in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System

References: (a) TRICARE Operations Manual (6010.51-M, August 1, 2002)  
(b) TRICARE Operations Manual (6010.56-M, February 1, 2008)

The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) for DoD to refer Service members participating in IDES to VA for Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations of potentially unfitting conditions. Hereinafter referred to as the IDES MOA, it is available in full text in Reference (a), Chapter 18, Addendum D, and in Reference (b), Chapter 17, Addendum C. Attachment B to the IDES MOA provides "VA Billing Procedures," and Attachment D provides "Guidance for DoD Military Treatment Facilities on DoD Referrals." TRICARE Management Activity and the VA Central Office have been coordinating DoD reimbursement of C&P claims with dates of service through December 31, 2010.

For dates of service beginning January 1, 2011, the Managed Care Support Contracts and the TRICARE Overseas Program contract have been modified for the contractors to process claims submitted by the VA for C&P examinations as specified in Reference (a), Chapter 18, Section (Sec.) 2, Paragraph 3.2, and in Reference (b), Chapter 17, Sec. 2, Paragraph 3.2. In order for the TRICARE contractors to pay C&P examination claims, the requesting Military Treatment Facility (MTF) must submit a referral to the appropriate contractor specifying the total number of C&P examinations authorized by the MTF for potentially unfitting conditions, including one additional authorization for a general medical examination as indicated. Instructions for completing the referral and authorization are provided in Reference (a), Chapter 8, Sec. 5, Paragraph 7.2.1, and in Reference (b), Chapter 8, Sec. 5, Paragraph 6.1. A retroactive referral for C&P examinations after January 1, 2011, is also required.

This policy applies to all MTFs that refer Service members participating in IDES to VA for C&P exams. The point of contact in this matter is Ms. Leeisa Shade-Ford, who may be reached at (703) 681-0039, or [Leeisa.Shade-Ford@tma.osd.mil](mailto:Leeisa.Shade-Ford@tma.osd.mil).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Woodson, M.D.