

Dated: March 24, 2004.
L.M. Bynum,
*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
 Officer, Department of Defense.*
 [FR Doc. 04-7048 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

**TRICARE; Implementation of the
 TRICARE Home Health Agency
 Prospective Payment System**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary,
 Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of implementation of
 Home Health Agency Prospective
 Payment System.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise
 interested parties of the phased-in
 implementation of the Home Health
 Agency Prospective Payment System
 (HHA PPS). Public notification of HHA
 PPS implementation was required under
 a previous interim final rule (67 FR
 40597) published in the **Federal
 Register** on June 13, 2002, if TRICARE
 was unable to effectively and efficiently
 implement the HHA PPS within the
 specified statutory effective date of
 August 12, 2002.

The HHA PPS will be implemented
 with the start health care delivery date
 of the following regional groupings of
 states under each of the TRICARE Next
 Generation of Contracts (T-Nex); e.g., as
 of June 1, 2004, home health agency
 services in the state of Washington will
 be processed and paid under the HHA
 PPS as part of the West T-Nex regional
 contract.

| T-Nex region/contractor | States | Start healthcare delivery |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| North (Health Net Federal Services, Inc.). | Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Virginia (except the Northern Virginia/National Capital Area), North Carolina, Eastern Iowa, Rock Island, IL, Fort Campbell catchment area of Tennessee. | July 1, 2004. |
| | Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Northern Virginia, West Virginia (portion). | September 1, 2004. |
| South (Humana Military Healthcare Services). | Oklahoma, Arkansas and major portions of Texas and Louisiana | November 1, 2004. |
| | Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Eastern Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, small area of Arkansas, New Orleans area. | August 1, 2004. |
| West (TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp.). | Washington, Oregon, Northern Idaho | June 1, 2004. |
| | California, Hawaii, Alaska | July 1, 2004. |
| | Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, western portion of Texas, Wyoming. | October 1, 2004. |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
 David Bennett, Medical Benefits and
 Reimbursement Systems, TRICARE
 Management Activity, telephone (303)
 676-3494.

Dated: March 23, 2004.
L.M. Bynum,
*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison,
 Officer, Department of Defense.*
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

**Notice of Availability of Government-
 Owned Invention; Available for
 Licensing**

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is
 assigned to the United States
 Government as represented by the
 Secretary of the Navy and is available
 for licensing by the Department of the
 Navy.

U.S. Patent number 6,615,919 entitled
 "Well Pipe Extraction Apparatus."

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the
 patent application cited should be
 directed to Kurt Buehler, NFESC, Code
 423, 1100 23rd Ave, Port Hueneme, CA
 93043-4370, and must include the U.S.
 Patent number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kurt
 Buehler, Office of Research and
 Technology Applications, NFESC, Code
 423, 1100 23rd Ave, Port Hueneme, CA
 93043-4370, telephone (805) 982-4897.
 (Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR part 404.)

Dated: March 17, 2004.
S.K. Melancon,
*Paralegal Specialist, Office of the Judge
 Advocate General, Alternate Federal Register
 Liaison Officer.*
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BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Office of Special Education and
 Rehabilitative Services; Overview
 Information; National Institute on
 Disability and Rehabilitation Research
 (NIDRR)—Small Business Innovative
 Research Program (SBIR); Notice
 Inviting Applications for New Awards
 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
 (CFDA) Number: 84.133S-1.

DATES: Applications Available: March
 31, 2004.

Deadline for Notice of Intent to
 Apply: April 30, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of
 Applications: June 1, 2004.

Eligible Applicants: Small business
 concerns as defined by the Small
 Business Administration (SBA) at the
 time of the award. This definition is
 included in the application package.

All technology, science, or
 engineering firms with strong research
 capabilities in any of the priority areas
 listed in this notice are encouraged to
 participate.

Consultative or other arrangements
 between these firms and universities or
 other non-profit organizations are