

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.*  
 [FR Doc. 04-6978 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**

**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.*  
 [FR Doc. 04-7004 Filed 3-29-04; 8:45 am]  
**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