

Dated: March 27, 2003.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 5, 2003.

Title, Form Number, and OMB Number: United States Air Force Academy Candidate Writing Sample; USAFA Form O-878; OMB Number 0701-0147.

Type of Request: Extension.
Number of Respondents: 4,100.
Responses Per Respondent: 1.
Annual Responses: 4,100.
Average Burden Per Response: 60 minutes (average).

Annual Burden Hours: 4,100 hours.
Needs and Uses: This form is used to collect a writing sample on candidates applying to the United States Air Force Academy. The writing sample is used to evaluate background and aptitude for commissioned service.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Frequency: On Occasion.
Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Jacqueline Zeiher.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Ms. Zeiher at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: March 28, 2003.

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Officer, Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Reinstatement of Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

In accordance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs announces the proposed reinstatement of public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the reinstatement of information collection should be sent to TRICARE Management Activity, Medical benefits and Reimbursement System, 16401 East Centretech Parkway, ATTN: Marty Maxey, Aurora, CO 80011-9066.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed reinstatement of information collection, please write to the above address or call TRICARE Management Activity, Medical benefits and Reimbursement Systems at (303) 676-3627.

Title Associated with Form, and OMB Number: Request for Reimbursement of Capital and Direct Medical Education Costs.

Needs and Uses: The TRICARE/CHAMPUS contractors will use the information collected to reimburse hospitals for TRICARE/CHAMPUS' share of capital and direct medical education costs.

Affected Public: Individuals; business or other for profit.

Annual Burden Hours: 5,532.

Number of Respondents: 5,400.

Respondents are institutional providers and admitting physicians.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.
Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes for physicians.
Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1984, Pub. L. 98-94 amended Title 10, section 1079(j)(2)(A) of the U.S.C. and provided the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) with the statutory authority to reimburse institutional providers based on diagnosis-related groups (DRGs). The CHAMPUS DRG-based payments apply only to hospital's operating costs and do not include any amounts for hospitals' capital or direct medical education costs. Any hospital subject to the DRG-based payment system, except for children's hospitals (whose capital and direct medical education costs are incorporated in the children's hospital differential), who want to be reimbursed for allowed capital and direct medical education costs must submit a request for payment to the TRICARE/CHAMPUS contractor. The request allows TRICARE to collect the information necessary to properly reimburse hospitals for its share of these costs. The information can be submitted in any form, most likely in the form of a letter. The contractor will calculate the TRICARE/CHAMPUS share of capital and direct medical education costs and make a lump-sum payment to the hospital.

The TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system is modeled on the Medicare Prospective Payment System (PPS) and was implemented on October 1, 1987. Initially, under 42 CFR 412.46 of the Medicare regulations, physicians was required to sign attestation and acknowledgment statements. These requirements were implemented to ensure a means of holding hospitals and physicians accountable for the information they submit on the Medicare claim forms. Being modeled on the Medicare PPS, CHAMPUS also adopted these requirements. The physicians attestation and physician acknowledgment required by Medicare under 42 CFR 412.46 are also required for CHAMPUS as a condition for payment and may be satisfied by the same statements as required for Medicare, with substitution or addition of "CHAMPUS" when the word "Medicare" is used. Physicians sign a physician acknowledgement, maintained by the institution, at the time the physician is granted admitting privileges. This acknowledgement indicates the physician understands the importance of a correct medical record,