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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

**11 September 1998**

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

**SUBJECT:** Policy for Transition to the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) Mental Health Utilization Review Criteria

This memorandum establishes Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) (OASD(HA)) policy for the Military Health System (MHS) regarding the new SAIC utilization review (UR) criteria as the sole mental health UR tool for both direct care providers as well as managed care support contractors in all future contracts.

This criteria set, which was developed from best practice UR methodologies in commercial and government sectors, has undergone rigorous review and has been found to be both valid and reliable. A financial impact evaluation done by Kennel and Associates demonstrated that this implementation will result in no overall increase in MHS expenditures. Additionally, by using criteria that OASD(HA) owns, the MHS will no longer have ongoing proprietary difficulties with Health Management Strategies International (HMSI).

In order to support staff training needs, TMA will host "Train the Trainer" workshops for appropriate DoD and TRICARE contractor personnel in the Washington, DC area, and will provide copies of both the criteria set as well as training materials.

Please provide proposals for a phased implementation of the SAIC Mental Health UR criteria in MTFs and in the next set of regional contracts by October 15, 1998. My point of contact for implementation of this policy is CDR Mark Paris in TMA, at 703-681-3628.

Dr. Sue Bailey

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