



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS

SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 810, 5111 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

TRICARE
MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY

SEP 13 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Official Position on the DoD Health Care Beneficiary Population

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on the official Department of Defense (DoD) health care beneficiary population figures that will be provided in response to public and other external agencies requests. For fiscal year (FY) 2003, the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) official position for the DoD health care beneficiary population is 8,649,083 or rounded to 8.7 million. These are the official figures that shall be given in response to inquiries from external agencies. TMA staff shall cite the source of this information as the Managed Care Forecasting and Analysis System (MCFAS), version 2001.0, and state the information reflects a base-year of FY 2001, adjusted with information from March 2002. DoD healthcare beneficiary sub-population inquiries of a specific nature shall be directed to my office for coordination and action.

The selection of MCFAS to provide official population figures is due to several factors. First, MCFAS is the official database for forecasting our DoD health care beneficiary population. MCFAS provides a projection of the average beneficiary population for a year. MCFAS receives input from the Services' Medical Department representatives, from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, the active duty and guard/reserve Future Years' Defense Plan, and the DoD Office of the Actuary.

Second, inputs, assumptions, methodologies, and results are coordinated, reviewed, and approved by the Joint DoD/Service Population and Resource Projection Working Group. Last, the population figures derived from MCFAS are what we use as input to DoD and Service planning documents such as the DHP Program Objective Memorandum, the Budget Estimate Submission and the President's Budget.

To ensure you are kept informed of the most current DoD health care beneficiary population figures, I have directed the TMA Resource Management Directorate to publish and distribute these figures to all TMA Directorates immediately after each MCFAS update that is targeted for June each year. The most recent MCFAS files were made available July 22, 2002.

Your cooperation in abiding by this guidance ensures we speak with one voice regarding population figures and increases the credibility of our organization to our external customers.

My point of contact is LTC Felicio, (703) 681-8910, john.felicio@tma.osd.mil.

Nelson M. Ford
Chief Financial Officer