

CHAPTER 11
SECTION 2.1
ENCLOSURE 2

DEFINITIONS

Jun 11, 91
6015.19

1. CATCHMENT AREA.

Refers to the geographic area surrounding each MTF, or designated USTF, that constitutes the inpatient service area for the facility. Inpatient catchment areas in the United States are defined by postal zip code centers that fall in an area of approximately 40 air miles in radius surrounding each inpatient facility. The zip codes designating catchment areas in the United States are specified in the "Catchment Area Directory U.S. and Puerto Rico, Inpatient." Zip codes contained in more than one U.S. inpatient catchment area can be easily identified in the Catchment Area Directory Zip Code Cross Reference. Overseas catchment areas are defined Catchment Area Directory, Overseas. Overseas geographic areas for which NASs are issued are identified in maps provided to the OASD(HA) and the OCHAMPUS by the Secretaries of the Military Departments.

2. MAJOR DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES (MDCs).

Method of aggregating salient patient and/or disease classification features associated with Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs). The MDCs listed reflect the DRG scheme specified in the DRG Definitions Manual. These MDCs should be projected at issuance. Use the DRF Definitions Manual to determine which principal diagnoses fall within a respective MDC.

3. MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

The sudden and unexpected onset of a serious medical condition or the acute exacerbation of a chronic condition that is threatening to life, limb, or sight, and requires immediate medical treatment, or which manifests painful symptomatology requiring immediate palliative efforts to alleviate suffering. Medical emergencies include heart attacks, cardiovascular accidents, poisoning, convulsions, kidney stones, and such other acute medical conditions, as may be determined to be serious medical emergencies by the Director, OCHAMPUS, or a designee. In the case of pregnancy, a medical emergency must involve a sudden and unexpected medical complication that puts the mother, the baby, or both at risk. Pain would not qualify a maternity case as an emergency, nor would incipient birth after the 34th week of gestation, unless an otherwise qualifying medical condition is present. Examples of medical emergencies, pregnancy, or delivery are hemorrhage, ruptured membrane with prolapsed cord, placenta previa, abruptio placenta, presence of shock or unconsciousness, suspected heart attack or stroke, or trauma (such as injuries received in an automobile accident).

4. MEDICALLY INAPPROPRIATE.

A situation when denial of a NAS could result in significant risk to the health of the patient, significant limitation to the patient's reasonable access to needed

healthcare, or significant risk to the Government. This may also include situations when beneficiaries are traveling and temporarily away from their current residence. A NAS should be issued under these circumstances only if the commander determines that the trip was not made for the purpose of avoiding use of a MTF in the beneficiary's home area.

5. MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES (MTFs).

Medical facilities operated by one or more of the Uniformed Services. MTFs also refer to certain former USPHS facilities now designated as USTFs.

6. PERMANENTLY NOT AVAILABLE.

Refers to a situation at an MTF where personnel or facilities are not available and are not expected to become available for an indefinite period because of a policy decision not to provide such service at the MTF.

7. TEMPORARILY NOT AVAILABLE.

Refers to a situation at a MTF where personnel or facilities are not available for a short period of time due to the absence of essential personnel, or certain equipment or facilities are not available due to their being inoperable or under renovation or construction, etc.

8. UNIFORMED SERVICES.

The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of the USPHS, and the Commissioned Corps of the NOAA.

9. UNIFORMED SERVICES TREATMENT FACILITIES (USTFs).

Facilities that were operated by the USPHS, are operated presently by civilian organizations, and certain operations of which are deemed under Pub. I. 97-99 (reference (j)) to be MTFs.

10. UNITED STATES.

Refers to the Continental United States (CONUS), Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

11. VALID NAS.

Refers to a NAS that is appropriately issued by a MTF, and used within the time specified on the DD Form 1251. It does not mean that the NAS guarantees CHAMPUS reimbursement.

12. SELECTED OUTPATIENT PROCEDURES.

Refers to those selected outpatient procedures that have been identified by the ASD(HA) as being high cost. Two categories of procedures set the parameters for the particular outpatient procedures for which nonavailability statements are required. The two categories are:

a. Outpatient surgical procedures.

b. Other selected outpatient procedures that have high unit costs and for which care may be available in MTFs.

The actual outpatient procedures covered will be announced and widely publicized (including publication in the Federal Register) before taking effect. Any changes to the selected procedures will be published in the Federal Register at least 30 days before the effective date of the change.