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**SUMMARY OF CHANGE(S): This manual change incorporates the changes necessary to implement and execute the 2016 TRICARE Overseas Contract.**

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**CHANGE 130  
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**REMOVE PAGE(S)**

**CHAPTER 1**

Section 35, pages 1 - 3

**APPENDIX A**

pages 25 - 35

**INSERT PAGE(S)**

Section 35, pages 1 - 4

pages 25 - 35

## Professional Provider Reimbursement In Specified Locations Outside The 50 United States And The District Of Columbia

Issue Date: April 7, 2008

Authority: [32 CFR 199.14\(m\)](#), [\(n\)](#), and [\(o\)](#)

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### 1.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy is mandatory for reimbursement of providers of professional services in specified locations outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia. This policy revises, replaces, and supersedes the current reimbursement policies for professional reimbursement, effective March 2004, in the Philippines. **The commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam** follow the reimbursement methodologies used for the 50 United States and District of Columbia. **Aeromedical evacuation reimbursement for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories will continue to be at billed charges, unless otherwise directed by the government.**

### 2.0 ISSUE

How are providers of professional services in locations specified in [paragraph 4.1](#) reimbursed?

### 3.0 POLICY

**3.1** The term “allowable charge” is the maximum amount TRICARE will reimburse for covered health care services:

**3.2** The allowable charge is the lowest of: (a) the actual billed charge or (b) the maximum allowable charge. The maximum allowable charge is developed prospectively and utilizes the U.S. National CHAMPUS Maximum Allowable Charge (CMAC) which incorporates Relative Value Units (RVUs). For any covered service, the U.S. National CMAC rate is multiplied by a country specific index factor. This standardizes the U.S. National CMAC for that country and thus represents the maximum allowable TRICARE will reimburse in that country for that service.

# TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

## Chapter 1, Section 35

### Professional Provider Reimbursement In Specified Locations Outside The 50 United States And The District Of Columbia

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#### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

##### **4.1 Reimbursement Systems**

**4.1.1** Locations Affected. This payment system applies to covered professional services delivered in all designated locations outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia. The designated locations are:

- The Philippines
- Panama
- Other as designated by the Government.

**4.1.2** Applicability. This payment system will be applied by the foreign claims processor. It applies to professional services furnished to retirees or their eligible family members Standard Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) falling under the claims processing jurisdiction of the foreign claims processor.

##### **4.2 General Methodology**

**4.2.1** Payment for non-ancillary professional services, in specified locations outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, are made utilizing the lesser of (a) billed charges or (b) prospectively determined rates that multiplies the U.S. National CMAC rates by a country specific index factor. The U.S. National CMAC rates are comprised of approximately 7,000 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes. Each CPT code associates with an established CMAC rate. There are a limited number of CPT codes that do not have a U.S. National CMAC established. If these CPT codes are billed to the TRICARE program, they shall be reimbursed at billed charges. The U.S. National CMAC rates utilized in specified locations outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia are paid at "the site of service" location of physicians' office without regard of the actual location where the service is delivered. This site of service location (physicians' office) represents the highest reimbursement allowed for all physicians. For example, should a physician, in a specified location outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, deliver a service in the emergency room, his payment will be based on the CPT code submitted, and paid at the site of service level of physician office (the highest). Each CPT code rate is multiplied by a specific country index factor and represents the maximum allowed to be paid to professional providers in designated locations outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia.

**4.2.2** The payment rates are all inclusive. An eligible and a representative procedure code or narrative description must be submitted by the provider or developed by the overseas claims processor.

##### **4.3 Country Specific Index**

The country specific index factor is obtained from the World Bank's International Comparison Program. The index factor, known as Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) conversion factor, is based upon a large array of goods and services or market basket within a specific country which is then standardized and weighted to a U.S. standard and currency. The World Bank defines PPP conversion factor as: "Number of units of a country's currency required to buy the same amount of goods and

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Chapter 1, Section 35

#### Professional Provider Reimbursement In Specified Locations Outside The 50 United States And The District Of Columbia

services in the domestic market that a U.S. dollar would buy in the U.S.” The use of a country specific index enables a conversion and therefore parity between the U.S. and the specific country in the purchasing of the same amount and type of medical services. TRICARE is utilizing the World Bank’s International Comparison Program country specific index as provided in [Figure 1.35-1](#).

#### 4.4 Updating Professional Payment Rates

Annually, the Policy and Statistical Analysis Services contractor shall calculate the U.S. National CMAC rates. The data will contain each CPT code, a short description, a U.S. National payment rate, as well as the effective date. On an annual basis, the U.S. National CMAC may increase or decrease as determined by TRICARE. This contractor shall separately supply to the **Defense Health Agency (DHA)** the country specific index every year or as dictated by the World Bank’s International Comparison program or as determined by TRICARE, which will be included in [Figure 1.35-1](#). The above contractor shall also provide the country specific index adjusted CMAC files, and any updates or corrections, electronically to **DHA**, which will be provided to the overseas claims processor at least annually, or as specifics may dictate. For those codes that contain a technical as well as professional component, each component shall have a separate supplied payment rate. Updates, additions, changes, revisions or deletions to the CPT codes or country specific index or CMACs will be communicated to the overseas claims processor and be considered as routine updates to this payment system and processed under TRICARE Operations Manual (TOM), [Chapter 1, Section 4, paragraph 2.4](#). The adjusted per diems will be available at: <http://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Business-Support/Rates-and-Reimbursement/Foreign-Rates>.

#### 4.5 Beneficiary Eligibility - Change in Eligibility Status

Since the payment is on a date of service basis, the professional, and other charges shall be paid for all dates of service that the beneficiary is TRICARE eligible and denied for all dates of services the beneficiary is not TRICARE eligible.

#### 4.6 Beneficiary Cost-Shares

Beneficiary cost-shares are contained in [Chapter 2, Section 1](#), and shall be applicable to TRICARE’s applicable professional allowable charges.

**4.7** The overseas claims processor and the overseas contractor shall maintain the current year and two immediate past years’ iterations of the country specific index adjusted CMAC CPT rates.

#### 4.8 Exception

The payment system does not apply to ancillary services for CPT<sup>1</sup> codes 70000 - 89999. These ancillary services in the Philippines shall be reimbursed using Puerto Rico CMACs unless the government directs an alternate payment methodology and in Panama using the billed charges through December 31, 2012. Effective January 1, 2013, ancillary services in Panama shall be paid using the **lesser of billed charges or 250% of the U.S. National CMAC**.

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<sup>1</sup> CPT only © 2006 American Medical Association (or such other date of publication of CPT). All Rights Reserved.

**TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008**

Chapter 1, Section 35

Professional Provider Reimbursement In Specified Locations Outside The 50 United States And The District Of Columbia

**FIGURE 1.35-1 COUNTRY SPECIFIC INDEX FACTORS**

	<b>COUNTRY SPECIFIC INDEX FACTOR</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>2008</b>		
Philippines	0.52	November 1, 2008
Panama	0.70	February 1, 2009
<b>2012</b>		
Philippines	0.57	December 1, 2012
Panama	0.70	December 1, 2012

- END -

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

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PDS	Person Demographics Service
PDTS	Pharmacy Data Transaction System
PDX	Principal Diagnosis
PE	Physical Examination
PEC	Pharmacoeconomic Center
PEP	Partial Episode Payment
PEPR	Patient Encounter Processing and Reporting
PERMS	Provider Education and Relations Management System
PESA	Percutaneous Epididymal Sperm Aspiration
PET	Positron Emission Tomography
PFCRA	Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act
PFP	Partnership For Peace
PFPWD	Program for Persons with Disabilities
PGD	Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis
Phen-Fen	Pondimin and Redux
PHI	Protected Health Information
PHIMT	Protected Health Information Management Tool
PHP	Partial Hospitalization Program
PHS	Public Health Service
PI	Program Integrity (Office)
PIA	Privacy Impact Assessment (Online)
PIC	Personnel Investigation Center
PIE	Pulsed Irrigation Evacuation
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
PIN	Personnel Identification Number
PIP	Personal Injury Protection Personnel Identity Protection
PIRFT	Percutaneous Intradiscal Radiofrequency Thermocoagulation (PIRFT)
PIT	PCM Information Transfer
PIV	Personal Identity Verification
PK	Public Key
PKE	Public Key Enabling
PKI	Public Key Infrastructure
PKU	Phenylketonuria
PLS	Preschool Language Scales
PM-DRG	Pediatric Modified-Diagnosis Related Group
PMPM	Per Member Per Month
PMR	Percutaneous Myocardial Laser Revascularization
<b>PMRC</b>	<b>Patient Movement Requirement Center</b>
PNET	Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumors
PNT	Policy Notification Transaction

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

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POA	Power of Attorney Present On Admission
POA&M	Plan of Action and Milestones
POC	Pharmacy Operations Center Plan of Care Point of Contact
POL	May 1996 TRICARE/CHAMPUS Policy Manual 6010.47-M
POS	Point of Sale (Pharmacy only) Point of Service Public Official's Statement
POV	Privately Owned Vehicle
PPACA	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
PPC-PCMH	Physician Practice Connections Patient-Centered Medical Home
PPD	Per Patient Day
PPN	Preferred Provider Network
PPO	Preferred Provider Organization
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PPS	Prospective Payment System Ports, Protocols and Services
PPSM	Ports, Protocols, and Service Management
PPV	Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine
PQI	Potential Quality Indicator Potential Quality Issue
PR	Periodic Reinvestigation
PRC	Program Review Committee
PRFA	Percutaneous Radiofrequency Ablation
PRG	Peer Review Group
PRO	Peer Review Organization
ProDUR	Prospective Drug Utilization Review
PROM	Programmable Read-Only Memory
PRP	Personnel Reliability Program
PRPP	Pharmacy Redesign Pilot Project
PSA	Prime Service Area Physician Scarcity Area
PSAB	Personnel Security Appeals Board
PSCT	Peripheral Stem Cell Transplantation
PSD	Personnel Security Division
PSF	Provider Specific File
PSG	Polysomnography
PSI	Personnel Security Investigation
PST	Pacific Standard Time

# TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

## Appendix A

### Acronyms And Abbreviations

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PT	Pacific Time Physical Therapist Physical Therapy Prothrombin Time
PTA	Pancreas Transplant Alone Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty
PTC	Processed To Completion
PTCA	Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty
PTK	Phototherapeutic Keratectomy
PTNS	Posterior Tibial Nerve Stimulation
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PVCs	Premature Ventricular Contractions
QA	Quality Assurance
QABA	Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis
QASP	Qualified Autism Services Practitioner
QC	Quality Control
QI	Quality Improvement Quality Issue
QII	Quality Improvement Initiative
QIO	Quality Improvement Organization
QIP	Quality Improvement Program
QLE	Qualifying Life Event
QM	Quality Management
QUIG	Quality Indicator Group
RA	Radiofrequency Annuloplasty Remittance Advice
RADDP	Remote Active Duty Dental Program
RAM	Random Access Memory
RAP	Request for Anticipated Payment
RAPIDS	Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System
RARC	Remittance Advice Remark Code
RBT	Registered Behavior Technician
RC	Reserve Component
RCC	Recurring Credit/Debit Charge Renal Cell Carcinoma
RCCPDS	Reserve Component Common Personnel Data System
RCN	Recoupment Case Number Refund Control Number
RCS	Report Control Symbol
RD	Regional Director Registered Dietitian
RDBMS	Relational Database Management System
Rddb	Reportable Disease Database

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

---

REM	Rapid Eye Movement
RF	Radiofrequency
RFA	Radiofrequency Ablation
RFI	Request For Information
RFP	Request For Proposal
RHA	Records Holding Area
RHC	Rural Health Clinic
RHHI	Regional Home Health Intermediary
RhoGAM	RRho (D) Immune Globulin
RIA	Radioimmunoassay
RM	Records Management
RN	Registered Nurse
RNG	Random Number Generator
RO	Regional Office
ROC	Resumption of Care
ROFR	Right of First Refusal
ROM	Read-Only Memory Rough Order of Magnitude
ROMF	Record Object Metadata File
ROT	Read-Only Table
ROTC	Reserved Officer Training Corps
ROVER	RHHI OASIS Verification
RPM	Record Processing Mode
RRA	Regional Review Authority
RRS	Records Retention Schedule
RTC	Residential Treatment Center
rTMS	Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
RUG	Resource Utilization Group
RV	Residual Volume Right Ventricle [Ventricular]
RVU	Relative Value Unit
SAAR	System Authorization Access Request
SAD	Seasonal Affective Disorder
SADMERC	Statistical Analysis Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier
SAFE	Sexual Assault Forensic Examination
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SAO	Security Assistant Organizations
SAP	Special Access Program
SAPR	Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
SAS	Sensory Afferent Stimulation Specified Authorization Staff (formerly Service Point of Contact (SPOC))
SAT	Service Assist Team
SAVR	Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

---

SBCC	Service Branch Classification Code
SBI	Special Background Investigation
SCA	Service Contract Act
SCH	Sole Community Hospital
SCHIP	State Children's Health Insurance Program
SCI	Sensitive Compartmented Information Spinal Cord Injury
SCIC	Significant Change in Condition
SCOO	Special Contracts and Operations Office
SCR	Stem Cell Rescue
S/D	Security Division
SD (Form)	Secretary of Defense (Form)
SEP	Sensory Evoked Potentials
SES	Senior Executive Service
SelRes	Selected Reserve
SF	Standard Form
SFTP	Secure File Transfer Protocol
SGDs	Speech Generating Devices
SHCP	Supplemental Health Care Program
SI	Sensitive Information Small Intestine (transplant) Special Indicator (code) Status Indicator
SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
SIF	Source Input Format
SII	Special Investigative Inquiry
SI/L	Small Intestine-Live (transplant)
SIOP-ESI	Single Integrated Operational plan-Extremely Sensitive Information
SIP	System Identification Profile
SIRT	Selective Internal Radiation Therapy
SIT	Standard Insurance Table
SLP	Speech-Language Pathology
SMC	System Management Center
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SMHC	Supervised Mental Health Counselor
SN	Skilled Nursing
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility
SNS	Sacral Nerve Root Stimulation
SOC	Start of Care
SOFA	Status Of Forces Agreement
SOIC	Senior Officer of the Intelligence Community
SON	Submitting Office Number

# TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

## Appendix A

### Acronyms And Abbreviations

---

SOR	Statement of Reasons <b>Statement of Responsibilities</b> System of Records
SORN	System of Records Notice
SP	Special Publication
SPA	Simple Power Analysis
SPC	Special Processing Code
SPECT	Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography
SPK	Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney (transplant)
SPR	SECRET Periodic Reinvestigation
SQL	Structured Query Language
SRE	Serious Reportable Event
SSA	Social Security Act Social Security Administration
SSAA	Social Security Authorization Agreement
SSAN	Social Security Administration Number
SSBI	Single-Scope Background Investigation
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance
SSL	Secure Socket Layer
SSM	Site Security Manager
SSN	Social Security Number
SSO	Short-Stay Outlier
ST	Speech Therapy
STF	Specialized Treatment Facility
STS	Specialized Treatment Services
STSF	Specialized Treatment Service Facility
SUBID	Sub-Identifier
SUD	Substance Use Disorder
SUDRF	Substance Use Disorder Rehabilitation Facility
SVO	SIT Validation Office
SVP	State Vaccine Program State Vaccine Program entity
SVT	Supraventricular Tachycardia
SWLS	Satisfaction With Life Scale
T-3	TRICARE Third Generation
TAD	Temporary Additional Duty
TAFIM	Technical Architecture Framework for Information Management
TAH	Total Artificial Heart
TAMP	Transitional Assistance Management Program
TAO	TRICARE Alaska Office TRICARE Area Office
TAR	Total Ankle Replacement
TARO	TRICARE Alaska Regional Office

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

---

TAVR	Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement
TB	Tuberculosis
TBD	To Be Determined
TBE	Tick Borne Encephalitis
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TC	Technical Component
TCMHC	TRICARE Certified Mental Health Counselor
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TCSRC	Transitional Care for Service-Related Conditions
TDD	Targeted Disc Decompression
TDEFIC	TRICARE Dual Eligible Fiscal Intermediary Contract
TDP	TRICARE Dental Program/Plan
TDR	Total Disc Replacement
TDRL	Temporary Disability Retired List
TDY	Temporary Duty
TED	TRICARE Encounter Data
TEE	Transesophageal Echocardiograph [Echocardiography]
TEFRA	Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act
TEOB	TRICARE Explanation of Benefits
TEPRC	TRICARE Encounter Pricing (Record)
TEPRV	TRICARE Encounter Provider (Record)
TET	Tubal Embryo Transfer
TF	Transfer Factor
TFL	TRICARE For Life
TFMDP	TRICARE (Active Duty) Family Member Dental Plan
TGRO	TRICARE Global Remote Overseas
TGROHC	TGRO Host Country
TIFF	Tagged Imaged File Format
TIL	Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocytes
TIMPO	Tri-Service Information Management Program Office
TIN	Taxpayer Identification Number
TIP	Thermal Intradiscal Procedure
TIPS	Transjugular Intrahepatic Portosystemic Shunt
TIS	TRICARE Information Service
TLAC	TRICARE Latin America/Canada
TLC	Total Lung Capacity
TMA	TRICARE Management Activity
TMA-A	TRICARE Management Activity - Aurora
TMAC	TRICARE Maximum Allowable Charge
TMCPA	Temporary Military Contingency Payment Adjustment
TMH	Telemental Health
TMI&S	Technology Management Integration & Standards

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

---

TMOP	TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy
TMR	Transmyocardial Revascularization
TMS	Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
TN	Termination Notice
TNEX	TRICARE Next Generation (MHS Systems)
TNP	Topical Negative Pressure
TOB	Type of Bill
TOE	Target of Evaluation
TOL	TRICARE Online
TOM	August 2002 TRICARE Operations Manual 6010.51-M February 2008 TRICARE Operations Manual 6010.56-M
TOP	TRICARE Overseas Program
TOPO	TRICARE Overseas Program Office
TP	Treatment Plan
TPA	Third Party Administrator
TPC	Third Party Collections
TPharm	TRICARE Pharmacy
TPL	Third Party Liability
TPM	August 2002 TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.54-M February 2008 TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.57-M
TPN	Total Parenteral Nutrition
TPOCS	Third Party Outpatient Collections System
TPR	TRICARE Prime Remote
TPRADFM	TRICARE Prime Remote Active Duty Family Member
TPRADSM	TRICARE Prime Remote Active Duty Service Member
TPRC	TRICARE Puerto Rico Contract(or)
TPSA	Transitional Prime Service Area
TQMC	TRICARE Quality Monitoring Contractor
TRDP	TRICARE Retiree Dental Program
TRI	TED Record Indicator
TRIAP	TRICARE Assistance Program
TRIP	Temporary Records Information Portal
TRM	August 2002 TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.55-M February 2008 TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M
TRO	TRICARE Regional Office
TRO-N	TRICARE Regional Office-North
TRO-S	TRICARE Regional Office-South
TRO-W	TRICARE Regional Office-West
TRPB	TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Benefits
TRR	TRICARE Retired Reserve
TRRx	TRICARE Retail Pharmacy
TRS	TRICARE Reserve Select
TRSA	TRICARE Reserve Select Application

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

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TSC	TRICARE Service Center
TSF	Target of Evaluation Security Functions
TSM	August 2002 TRICARE Systems Manual 7950.1-M February 2008 TRICARE Systems Manual 7950.2-M
TSP	Target of Evaluation Security Policy
TSR	TRICARE Select Reserve
TSRDP	TRICARE Select Reserve Dental Program
TSRx	TRICARE Senior Pharmacy
TSS	TRICARE Senior Supplement
TSSD	TRICARE Senior Supplement Demonstration
TTOP	TRICARE Transitional Outpatient Payment
TTPA	Temporary Transitional Payment Adjustment
TTY	Teletypewriter
TUNA	Transurethral Needle Ablation
TYA	TRICARE Young Adult
UAE	Uterine Artery Embolization
UARS	Upper Airway Resistance Syndrome
UB	Uniform Bill
UBO	Uniform Business Office
UCBT	Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cell Transplantation
UCC	Uniform Commercial Code Urgent Care Center
UCSF	University of California San Francisco
UIC	Unit Identification Code
UIN	Unit Identifier Number
UM	Utilization Management
UMO	Utilization Management Organization
UMP	User Maintenance Portal
UPIN	Unique Physician Identification Number
UPPP	Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty
URFS	Unremarried Former Spouses
URL	Universal Resource Locator
US	Ultrasound United States
US-CERT	United States-Computer Emergency Readiness Team
USA	United States of America
USACID	United States Army Criminal Investigation Division
USAF	United States Air Force
USAO	United States Attorneys' Office
USC	United States Code
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USCO	Uniformed Services Claim Office
USCYBERCOM	United States Cyber Command

## TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

### Appendix A

#### Acronyms And Abbreviations

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USD	Undersecretary of Defense
USD (P&R)	Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)
USDI	Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence
USFHP	Uniformed Services Family Health Plan
USHBP	Uniformed Services Health Benefit Plan
USMC	United States Marine Corps
USMTF	Uniformed Services Medical Treatment Facility
USN	United States Navy
USPDI	United States Pharmacopoeia Drug Information
USPHS	United States Public Health Service
USPS	United States Postal Service
USPSTF	U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
USS	United Seaman's Service
USTF	Uniformed Services Treatment Facility
UV	Ultraviolet
VA	Veterans Affairs (hospital) Veterans Administration
VAC	Vacuum-Assisted Closure
VAD	Ventricular Assist Device
VAMC	VA Medical Center
VATS	Video-Assisted Thorascopic Surgery
VAX-D	Vertebral Axial Decompression
VD	Venereal Disease
VO	Verifying Office (Official)
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VPOC	Verification Point of Contact
VRDX	Reason Visit Diagnosis
VSAM	Virtual Storage Access Method
VSD	Ventricular Septal Defect
WAC	Wholesale Acquisition Cost
WAN	Wide Area Network
WATS	Wide Area Telephone Service
WC	Worker's Compensation
WDR	Written Determination Report
WebDOES	Web DEERS Online Enrollment System (application)
WEDI	Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange
WHS	Washington Headquarters Services
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children (Program)
WII	Wounded, Ill, and Injured
WLAN	Wireless Local Area Network
WORM	Write Once Read Many
WRAMC	Walter Reed Army Medical Center

**TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008**

Appendix A

Acronyms And Abbreviations

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WTC	World Trade Center
WTRR	Wire Transfer Reconciliation Report
WTU	Warrior Transition Unit
WWW	World Wide Web
X-Linked SCID	X-Linked Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Syndrome
XML	eXtensible Markup Language
ZIFT	Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer

2D	Two Dimensional
3D	Three Dimensional

- END -

