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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

**March 29, 1995**

**MEMORANDUM** ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE  
**FOR:** AFFAIRS)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER, RESERVE  
AFFAIRS, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)

**SUBJECT:** Reimbursement for Multiple Outpatient Visits During a Single Day

This memorandum is to clear up confusion on outpatient charges for patients who are not entitled to receive care in Military Medical Treatment Facilities without reimbursement. The confusion is a result of Service practice and outdated regulations which incorrectly state that a 'per diem' billing methodology is appropriate. This is incorrect, and where appropriate, Service Regulations should be changed to correct this practice.

DoD Medical Treatment Facilities are authorized to provide health care services to some categories of non-entitled patients (such as DoD civilians overseas) on a reimbursable basis. Reimbursement must be calculated to represent the full cost of the service provided. All separate outpatient visits during a single day will result in a separate charge for each visit. In failing to charge for each of multiple visits received during the same day, the facility fails to recover the full cost for services rendered. The only exception to this rule is when a patient visits the same clinic multiple times in the same day. In this case, they are charged for one visit at the rate for that workcenter.

Please contact LCDR Pat Kelly at (703) 756-8910 if you have any questions.

Stephen C. Joseph, M.D., M.P.H.

cc:

Surgeon General of the Army  
Surgeon General of the Navy  
Surgeon General of the Air Force

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