

§ 728.34

(i) *Appeal procedures.* Beneficiaries may appeal the denial of their request for a DD 1251. This procedure consists of four levels within Navy, any one of which may terminate action and order issuance of a Nonavailability Statement if deemed warranted:

(1) The first level is the chief of service, or director of clinical services if the chief of service is the cognizant authority denying the beneficiary's original request.

(2) The second level is the commanding officer of the naval MTF denying the issuance. Where the appeal is denied and denial is upheld at the commanding officer's level, inform beneficiaries that their appeal may be forwarded to the geographic commander having jurisdictional authority.

(3) The third level is the appropriate geographic commander, if the appeal is denied at this level, inform beneficiaries that their appeal may be forwarded to the Commander, Naval Medical Command, Washington, DC 20372-5120.

(4) The Commander, Naval Medical Command, the fourth level of appeal, will evaluate all documentation submitted and arrive at a decision. The beneficiary will be notified in writing of this decision and the reasons therefor.

(j) *Data collection and reporting.* Do not issue the original of each DD 1251 prepared at activities where the DEER/NAS automated system is not operational. Send the retained originals to the Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Data Services Center (Code-03), Bethesda, MD 20814-5066 for reporting under report control symbol DD-HA (Q) 1463(6320).

§ 728.34 Care beyond the capabilities of a naval MTF.

When either during initial evaluation or during the course of treatment of an individual authorized care in this subpart, a determination is made that required care or services are beyond the capability of the naval MTF, the provisions of § 728.4(z)(2) apply.

§ 728.35 Coordination of benefits—third party payers.

Title 10 U.S.C. 1095 directs the services to collect from third-party payers

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the reasonable costs of inpatient hospital care incurred by the United States on behalf of retirees and dependents. Naval hospital collection agents have been provided instructions relative to this issue and are responsible for initiating claims to third-party payers for the cost of such care. Admission office personnel must obtain insurance, medical service, or health plan (third-party payer) information from retirees and dependents upon admission and forward this information to the collection agent.

§ 728.36 Pay patients.

Care is provided on a reimbursable basis to retired Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel, retired Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers, retired Commissioned Corps officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and to the dependents of such personnel. Accordingly, patient administration personnel will follow the provisions of subpart J to initiate the collection action process when inpatient or outpatient care is provided to these categories of beneficiaries.

Subpart E—Members of Foreign Military Services and Their Dependents

§ 728.41 General provisions.

(a) *Dependent.* As used in this subpart, the term "dependent" denotes a person who bears one of the following relationships to his or her sponsor:

(1) A wife.

(2) A husband if dependent on his sponsor for more than one-half of his support.

(3) An unmarried legitimate child, including an adopted or stepchild who is dependent on the sponsor for over one-half of his or her support and who either:

(i) Has not passed the 21st birthday; or

(ii) Is incapable of self-support due to a physical or mental incapacity that existed prior to reaching the age of 21; or

(iii) Has not passed the 23rd birthday and is enrolled in a full-time course of study in an accredited institution of higher learning.