For further information contact: John Spear, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N–3618, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210; telephone (202) 603–2187. This is not a toll-free number. The alternative formats available are large print, electronic file on computer disk (Word Perfect, ASCII, and limiting it by non-institutional providers; and change in the statutory exclusion of coverage for custodial and domiciliary care. The Department is publishing this rule as an interim final rule to implement the statutory requirements and effective dates. Public comments, however, are invited and will be considered for possible revisions to this rule.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Office of the Secretary

32 CFR Part 199
RIN 0720–AA73
TRICARE; Sub-Acute Care Program; Uniform Skilled Nursing Facility Benefit; Home Health Care Benefit; Adopting Medicare Payment Methods for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Home Health Care Providers

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DoD
ACTION: Interim final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule partially implements the TRICARE “sub-acute and long-term care program reform” enacted by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, specifically: Establishment of an effective, efficient, and integrated sub-acute care benefits program, with skilled nursing facility and home health care benefits modeled after those of the Medicare program; adoption of Medicare payment methods for skilled nursing facility, home health care, and certain other institutional health care providers; adoption of Medicare rules on balance billing of beneficiaries, prohibiting it by institutional providers and limiting it by non-institutional providers; and change in the statutory exclusion of coverage for custodial and domiciliary care. The Department is publishing this rule as an interim final rule to implement the statutory requirements and effective dates. Public comments, however, are invited and will be considered for possible revisions to this rule.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until August 12, 2002. This rule implements specific statutory requirements with specific statutory effective dates. This rule is effective August 12, 2002, or as soon thereafter as the Director, TRICARE Management Activity can effectively and efficiently implement through contract change. If the rule is not effective August 12, 2002, notice will be published in the Federal Register when the contract changes