



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200**

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUN 20 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY

SUBJECT: Temporary Deferral in Medical Billing of Civilian Non-beneficiaries

While the Department is establishing procedures necessary to implement the changes to 10 U.S.C. § 1079b enacted in section 716 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, I direct that the Defense Health Agency defer establishment and issuance of medical bills to civilian non-beneficiary patients who are not covered by a third party insurer, and who receive care at military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) on or after June 21, 2023, until further notice.

Pursuant to authorization conferred by patient execution of the DD Form 2569 and by applicable provisions of law, MTFs shall continue to submit claims to third party payers for reasonable charges for healthcare services provided. However, when insurance payments are received, MTFs shall not issue invoices to civilian non-beneficiary patients for co-pays, co-insurance, deductibles, nominal fees, and non-covered services, until further notice.

Questions pertaining to this matter may be directed to my point of contact, Ms. Merlyn Jenkins, (703) 681-7346 or e-mail: merlyn.jenkins.civ@health.mil.

Lester Martínez-López, M.D., M.P.H.