

ARMY MEDICAL EXPENSE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING
SYSTEM (MEPRS) NEWS BULLETIN

The Office of The Surgeon General, MEPRS Project Office, Falls Church, Virginia, and the U.S. Army Medical Command, MEPRS Division, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, publishes and distributes the Army MEPRS News Bulletin quarterly by fiscal year (FY) to MEPRS administrators worldwide. We have designed the Army MEPRS News Bulletin to enhance communication within the Army medical treatment facilities.

/signed/
MICHAEL I. IRELAND
GM-14
Army MEPRS Project

/signed/
CHARLES D. SHAW
MAJ, MS
Chief, MEPRS Division

Officer

DISTRIBUTION:

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SECTION I: TRISERVICE HAPPENINGS

TRANSMISSIONS: In the second quarter newsletter, it mentioned the 45-day suspense in getting the data to Vector. That is our suspense to Vector. However, as a reminder, your suspense to us (MEDCOM), is 30 days after the reporting period.

We will no longer send the mail messages out indicating whether or not the PIND and monthly transmits were successful. The electronic mail, at many sites, was very slow and often the sites would call here anyway checking on the status. Once you have verified the transmission was successful in EASIII, by viewing the transmission log, you should wait one working day to hear from Technical Support. If you do not hear from them, you can assume the transmission was good. Technical Support will notify sites as soon as they notice any bad transmissions. However, you can always call Technical Support if you wish to know the status sooner than the one working day. The main POC for the EAS transmission will be Eric Carpenter, DSN 471-9764; however anyone in Technical Support can be of assistance.

SECTION II: ITEMS OF INTEREST

WELCOME: The PASBA MEPRS Division would like everyone to welcome Mr. Harry Perry. Harry's previous position was as an Management Analyst with the Deputy Chief of Staff Resource Management, Manpower Division. Harry and his wife, Janova, have three children.

COMPOSITE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (CHCS): The next CHCS release will allow the use of DJ MEPRS codes. However, when a patient is admitted to an ICU/CCU, the system will default to the MEPRS Codes as follows:

MICU - AAA
SICU - ABA
CCU - AAB
NICU - ADA

The user inputting the data has the capability to overwrite the default MEPRS code but is not required to do so. You will need to ensure the data reported to you is accurate.

MTF MEPRS POINTS OF CONTACT - The following list of points of contact is effective 1 Oct 94:

	Primary	Alternate
BAMC HSSA	Paulette Richards	Ursula Henry
Brooke Army Medical Center Fort Hood Fort Polk Fort Sill Panama		
EAMC HSSA	Ursula Henry	Bertha Shepherd
Eisenhower Army Medical Center Fort Benning Fort Campbell Fort Jackson Fort McClellan Redstone Arsenal Fort Rucker Fort Stewart		
FAMC HSSA	Romona Bacon	Harry Perry
Fitzsimons Army Medical Center Fort Carson Fort Leavenworth Fort Leonard Wood Fort Riley		
MAMC HSSA	Ursula Henry	Paulette Richards
Madigan Army Medical Center Fort Wainwright		
TAMC HSSA	Paulette Richards	Ursula Henry
Tripler Army Medical Center		
WBAMC HSSA	Harry Perry	Paulette Richards
William Beaumont Army Medical Center Fort Huachuca Fort Irwin		

WRAMC HSSA

Bertha Shepherd

Romona Bacon

Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Womack Army Medical Center
Fort Belvoir
Fort Drum
Fort Eustis
Fort Knox
Fort Lee
Fort Meade
Fort Monmouth
West Point

CORRECT OFFICE SYMBOL/ADDRESS - Please note the following office symbol and address should be used when addressing correspondence to the MEPRS Div, MEDCOM:

Commander
United States Army Medical Command
2050 Worth Road
ATTN: MCRM-ME
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6000

SECTION III: ARMY HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
(AHCFS)

ARMY MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE CODES (AMSCO) AND PROGRAM ELEMENT CODES - As you are aware, there are extensive changes to the Army Management Structure (AR 37-100-95). Installation of the 7.0 Release will update the AMSCO/Program Element Code (PEC) Table; however, you will have to make the appropriate changes to the APC Table in AHCFS manually.

STANFINS TAPE: Those sites experiencing problems with loading the STANFINS tape will need to contact Technical Support (471-9764). OTSG is working with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to resolve the problems; however, until such time, you will have to manually delete the records on the AHCFS Error Correction Unit (ECU) Report in regards to the AMSCO 840000.00. The 7.0 Release lengthened the limitation field and should correct the earlier problem with the block size. However, if you continue to have problems, contact Technical Support.

SPECIAL HEALTH CARE EXPENSE REPORT (SHCER): Many of you are still not balancing your SHCER to the 218 Report, nor are you comparing what's on the SHCER to what is actually in the system. You must do this to ensure the accuracy of the data.

SECTION IV: EXPENSE ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM, VERSION III (EAS III)

INITIALIZATION OF THE NEW YEAR: The new fiscal year, FY95, is just around the corner. For those sites who have not completed their FY 93 monthly, you SHOULD NOT execute the Initialization of the New Year process until all months of FY93 are re-processed and successfully transmitted. Initialization will close out FY93 and open up FY95 making the FY93 data non-accessible for processing. NOTE: You must perform the AHC FMS Initialization of the New Year process BEFORE the EASIII Initialization.

EASIII 7.0 RELEASE. Madigan Army Medical Center was selected as the BETA site for testing the EAS III 7.0 Release. Madigan received the release on 22 August and will test it for 30 days. We will field the release to all sites around mid-October. The most significant changes are:

MEPRS SUMMARY REPORT (MSR) - The MSR was modified to allow the user to select from 1-20 fourth-level MEPRS codes. After the reports are generated, you have the option to print individual sections, i.e., the Expense Analysis Section, Stepdown Analysis Section, Manpower Analysis Section, or print all of the above. You may also download the sections mentioned above, but must do so individually. Presently, there are no provisions to download from the "print all" function. This will be available in a later release.

STANDARD EXPENSE ELEMENT CODE (SEEC) - Effective 1 OCT FY95, the SEEC will change from three characters with one implied decimal (XX.X) to four characters with two decimals (XX.XX). Once the EASIII 7.0 Release is loaded, it will automatically update the EAS III SEEC Table.

DEPRECIATION (EA MEPRS CODES) AND BASOPS (EC MEPRS CODES) - An edit was added to prevent EA and EC codes in the Data File Maintenance Update Direct Expense Schedule (DES) Personnel and Financial screens. You can only enter these codes into the Manual DES.

DIAGNOSIS RELATED GROUP (DRG) COSTING - There is a new option on the EASIII main menu called DRG Costing. You will have the ability to cost MTF and work center specific costs for each DRG. However, before you can use it, you must have the Medical Health Care Information System (MHC MIS) installed at your site. Right now MHC MIS is loaded at MAMC, WRAMC, and TAMC. It will soon be loaded at all sites; however, it will be a gradual coming on-line process. A DRG Cost Report is available which includes a narrative that explains each data element, how it is derived, and the formulas used.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION MEPRS CODES - We have assigned fourth level MEPRS codes to capture humanitarian actions:

Haiti - GDAC
Rwanda - GDAD
Cuba - GDAE

OPEN ALLOTMENT - The sites that want to track open allotment expenses will use the fourth level MEPRS code FAZO.

GULF WAR ILLNESS - The sites that want to track patients with illnesses due to the Gulf War, will use "Y" at the fourth level.

HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT AREA (HSSA)/LEAD AGENTS - Those individuals performing duties in support of HSSAs will use the fourth level MEPRS Code, FCDH, and for Lead Agents will use FCDL to track their time and expenses.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY (EKG) - The performance factor for EKGs is a procedure, not a weighted procedure. One procedure is counted for each EKG or similar functional activity. Procedures/tests performed regarding stress monitoring or recording the condition of the heart and circulatory system in the EKG Clinic will still count as one procedure for each test performed.

RETENTION OF RECORDS - As stated in the 6010-13, page 5-3, records of expense assignments shall be maintained for 5 years and subject to audit. This includes the Detailed MEPR Parts I and II, the Computation Summary and their backup documents (SASs and DESS). In UCAPERS, keep the EAS Accumulator File Listing and the EAS/USM File listing for one year. However, remember the monthly Historical File in UCAPERS maintains files for up to two year.

486 PC AT WALTER REED - Due to the extremely long processing times for EAS, we have recently installed a 486 PC at Walter Reed in order to decrease run times for EAS processing. The 486 PC did not replace the 3B2, but was attached to serve as the processing engine. The endeavor, to this date, has been very successful and has run into few problems. To provide you some idea of how much this improved the processing times, the following is reported from WRAMC:

	3B2	With 486
Cummulative Comp Entire Year FY93	Over 40 hrs	5 hrs, 50 min
Monthly Comp	Over 24 hrs	2 hrs, 15 min

The installation was a pretty simple task and required EDS to spend a couple of days at the site for installation and system administration training to highlight the differences with the new configuration.

The following are the minimum hardware and software requirements for the 486 PC used at WRAMC:

Hardware:

486 DX2/66 PC
16 Mb RAM
SVGA Monitor
16 Bit LAN Controller Card
EISA SCSI Host Adapter (32-bit)
SCSI Disk Drives (2)

- (1) 213 Mb for OS, MUMPS, and Networking Software (/ and /usr)
- (1) 676 Mb or 1 Gb for MUMPS database

SCSI Cartridge Tape Drive (250 Mb)

Software:

OS - Interactive UNIX R3.2 V3.0
Micronetics MUMPS V3.0.14D
Networking Software (Networking Drivers, SNMP, and TCP/IP)

Any questions concerning what was done at WRAMC or the configuration of the system can be addressed to Technical Branch, MEPRS Div, HCSSA, Attn: CPT Conforti, DSN 471-9767, or Comm (210) 221-9767.

SECTION V: UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS PERSONNEL UTILIZATION SYSTEM (UCAPERS)

MEDICAL READINESS MEPRS CODES - Those facilities who have not converted the medical readiness "F" accounts to "G" accounts in Uniform Chart of Accounts Personnel Utilization System (UCAPERS) should do so as soon as possible.

EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION - Remember to finish Expense Distribution for September prior to updating the APC table with the AMS Code changes.