



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 1 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)


SUBJECT: Facilitating the Transition of Beneficiaries going from TRICARE Prime Coverage under the Transitional Assistance Management Program to TRICARE Prime Coverage as Active Duty Service Members and Active Duty Family Members

Current TRICARE policy states that when service members who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime under the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) return to active duty, the service member and their eligible family members lose eligibility for TAMP and are therefore disenrolled from TRICARE Prime coverage under TAMP. These beneficiaries must take action to re-enroll in TRICARE Prime now that their status has changed, otherwise the family members will default to TRICARE Standard coverage.

We are committed to improving the transition for beneficiaries who are transitioning from TRICARE Prime coverage under TAMP to TRICARE Prime coverage when their status changes to active duty service members and active duty family members. As such, this policy will provide these beneficiaries with sufficient time to make an enrollment decision and to allow these beneficiaries to have a seamless transition in their health coverage.

TAMP eligibles who were enrolled in Prime immediately prior to their change in status to active duty may continue their enrollment in TRICARE Prime with no break in coverage if they re-enroll in TRICARE Prime within 30 days of return to active duty status. If re-enrollment is accomplished within 30 days of return to active duty status, the re-enrollment will be retroactive to the date of the change in status from TAMP to active duty. If re-enrollment is not accomplished within 30 days of return to active duty status, the twentieth of the month rule will apply (i.e., for applications received after the twentieth day of the month, TRICARE Prime enrollment will begin on the first day of the second month, after the month in which the application was received by the contractor). In overseas locations, in accordance with the TRICARE Policy Manual (Ch 12, Sec. 3.2), enrollment is effective the date the enrollment form is signed. Enrollment procedures must also follow applicable TRICARE policies for the geographical area in which the beneficiary resides.

My point of contact for this policy is Mr. Steve Lillie, Deputy Chief of TRICARE Operations, who may be reached at (703) 681-0039.


For William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

HA POLICY: 06-015