



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
COMMANDANT, U.S. COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: Health Care Policy for Direct-Commission Reserve Officers

References: (a) Health Affairs Policy 07-002, January 22, 2007
(b) 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1074(a) (2) (B)

This memorandum describes the health care policy for all direct-commission Reserve officers to include those commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. This policy memorandum, along with the TRICARE Enrollment Policy for Activating Reserve Component members and their families, cancels and supersedes Health Affairs Policy Memorandum 07-002.

Direct-commission Reserve officers in a non-duty status who meet qualifications specified in reference (b) are entitled to medical and dental care in any facility of any uniformed Service. Notably, one of those qualifications is that the member is not covered by any other health benefits plan. In addition to direct care, they also may receive care from civilian providers via the Supplemental Health Care Program. The Defense Eligibility Enrollment System must reflect eligibility.

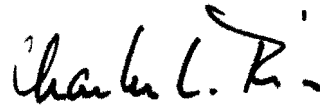
To provide further explanation on the aforementioned entitlements, direct-commission Reserve officers have two choices for accessing treatment prior to reaching their initial Active Duty station, which are summarized below.

1. Enroll in TRICARE Prime. If the member resides within 50 miles, or about 1 hour from a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), the member is permitted to enroll in TRICARE Prime, and be assigned to a primary care manager (PCM) at that MTF on the same basis as an Active Duty Service member. If the member enrolls in TRICARE Prime, the member must follow TRICARE Prime rules. Neither TRICARE Network PCM assignment, nor TRICARE Prime Remote is authorized.
2. Not Enroll in TRICARE Prime. The member may seek covered primary care from a TRICARE-authorized civilian provider. Prior to obtaining any specialty care, the

HA POLICY 10-006

member must contact the appropriate TRICARE regional or overseas Managed Care Support Contractor to obtain authorization. If the member needs assistance in locating a TRICARE-authorized provider, he/she may contact the appropriate regional or overseas contractor.

Upon entering the initial period of active duty, these officers will receive health care in accordance with the appropriate Active Duty health care options. Upon reaching their initial duty station, they should follow their command's guidance regarding TRICARE Prime enrollment, which could include TRICARE Prime Remote, if applicable.



Charles L. Rice, M.D.
President, Uniformed Services University of
the Health Sciences
Performing the Duties of the
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Health Affairs)

cc: Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Chief Medical Officer of the Coast Guard