

# TRICARE Overseas Program Office

## Medical Evacuation Coverage



### Introduction

Becoming acutely ill overseas can be a particularly stressful event for both the patient and their family. The following is a brief description of medical transport options for TRICARE beneficiaries and DoD Personnel overseas on official business who are not TRICARE beneficiaries. Please note that this list is not all inclusive, and prior to medical transport the TRICARE beneficiary or their family should always contact the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Contractor, ISOS, to ensure the transport will be covered (the Regional Call Center contact information is below). DoD personnel (who are not TRICARE beneficiaries) on official business overseas should contact their unit for assistance.

### **TRICARE Prime Medical Evacuation Coverage (TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Prime Remote, TRICARE Prime Overseas, TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas, TRICARE Young Adult-Prime)**

Medical evacuation is covered only if the patient must be seen quickly for their medical condition and the required care is unavailable or cannot be safely obtained in the patient's location. If it's determined that evacuation is medically necessary, the TOP Contractor is responsible for arranging the most appropriate method of transport and providing cashless, claimless evacuation transportation service to the nearest MTF or purchased care sector medical facility capable of providing the needed care. Medical evacuation transportation includes air ambulance, helicopter, and ground vehicles. Aeromedical evacuation is covered when the nearest facility is far away and the patient must be transported quickly.

### **Medical Evacuation Coverage for all other TRICARE Beneficiaries (Active Duty Family Members using TRICARE Standard, Retirees using TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve)**

Beneficiaries receiving health care through the above programs are eligible for medical evacuation (including air ambulance services). However these beneficiary categories do not receive cashless/claimless service and must pay for the service upfront and then file a claim for reimbursement. TRICARE will only cover the cost of medically necessary evacuations to the closest, safest location for the medical care and will not move the beneficiary to a location of their choosing. Patients requesting locations other than the closest facility capable of providing the required care may not receive full reimbursement from TRICARE. The TOP contractor will assist these beneficiary categories if requested and will provide medical evacuation options for consideration.

## **DOD civilians traveling OCONUS on TDY orders**

DOD civilians (who are not TRICARE beneficiaries) traveling OCONUS on TDY orders who become ill or injured while performing their duties are eligible for medical evacuation to the nearest hospital/medical facility capable of treating the employee's illness/injury. The DoD Component is the authorizing/approval authority for reimbursement of transportation and per diem expenses and establishes medical evacuation processes. Injured/ill employees should immediately contact their DoD Component approval authority for instructions.

For more information about the TRICARE Overseas Program please visit: <http://www.tricare-overseas.com/default.htm>

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