



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

**JUN - 3 2004**

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

SUBJECT: Treatment of Reserve Component Members with Delayed-Effective Date  
Active Duty Orders in Military Treatment Facilities

References: (a) National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2004, Section 703  
(b) USD (P&R) Memorandum, Health Care Benefits for Reserve Component  
Members and Their Dependents; Second Addendum to  
Mobilization/Demobilization Personnel and Pay Policy for Reserve  
Component Members Ordered to Active Duty in Response to the World  
Trade Center and Pentagon Attacks, 7 January 2004  
(c) DoD Instruction 1000.13, "Identification Cards for Member of the  
Uniformed Armed Services, Their Dependents, and Other Eligible  
Individuals"

Due to the continued mobilizations to support current operations, I want to ensure that maximum support is provided to Reserve Component (RC) members and their families when they become eligible for TRICARE benefits with receipt of delayed effective date orders to active duty in support of a contingency operation. There will be occasions when RC members may have valid copies of orders before information is actually reflected in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). This memorandum provides guidance, based on the noted references, for treating eligible RC members and their families within military treatment facilities (MTFs) during this period.

When a RC member receives delayed effective date orders to active duty in support of a contingency operation and is within 60 days of reporting for active duty, the RC member and family members are eligible for medical care and/or treatment in a MTF if: 1) they are within the 60 day window, 2) they possess a valid RC military or family member identification card, and 3) they have a copy of the RC member's delayed effective date orders to active duty. Validation of eligibility in DEERS early in the 60 day window may or may not reflect the delayed effective date orders to active duty in support of the contingency operation.

If a family member seeks care and does not have a valid identification card, he or she should be instructed to seek guidance from the MTF patient administration office for

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procedures to obtain a valid identification card. In the event a RC or family member presents with an emergency situation that warrants immediate attention and intervention, he/she will be treated even if the orders are not available or the identification care is not current. Normal procedures to validate eligibility after emergency medical treatment is rendered will apply.

For questions, please have your staff contact Dr. Jody Donehoo. He may be reached at (703) 681-0039 or by email at [Jody.Donehoo@tma.osd.mil](mailto:Jody.Donehoo@tma.osd.mil).

  
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