

Updated February 2025

TRICARE® and Veterans Affairs

An Overview of How TRICARE and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Work Together To Provide Health Benefits

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Today's Agenda

- What Is TRICARE?
- What Is VA?
- TRICARE and VA Eligibility
- VA Facilities
- Pharmacy Options
- Other Important Information
- For Information and Assistance

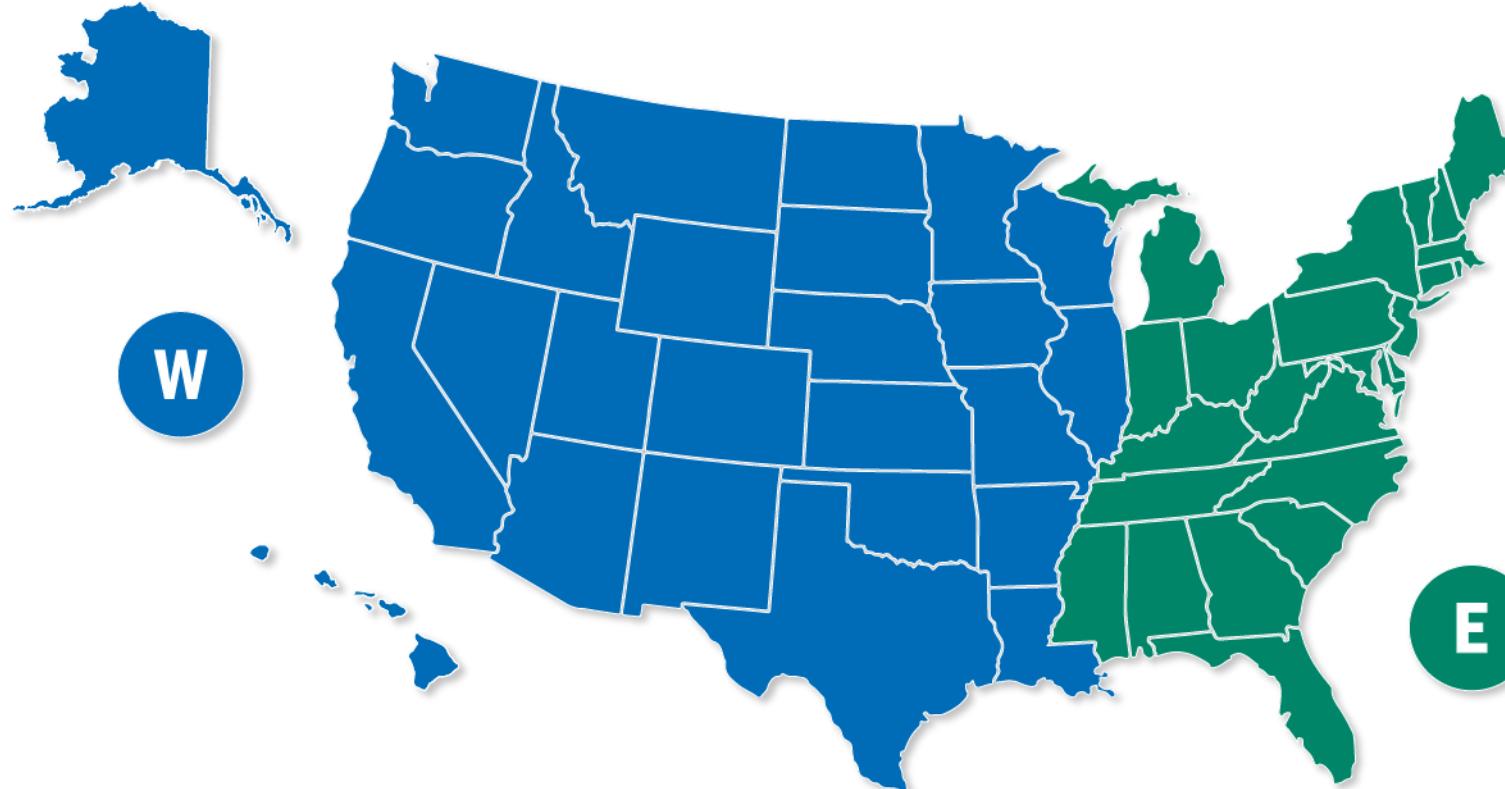
What Is TRICARE?

What Is TRICARE?



- TRICARE is the healthcare program for the U.S. Department of Defense. It consists of:
 - Direct care
 - Civilian care
- TRICARE® is the brand name for the U.S. Military Health System.

TRICARE Stateside Regions



West Region

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

E

East Region

Humana Military

Keep DEERS Information Up To Date



Being able to use TRICARE depends on keeping DEERS up to date.

Update DEERS after you have a life event, like getting married or divorced, moving, giving birth, adopting a child, retiring, and other changes.



Go to an ID Card Office
(<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>)

Note: You must use this option to add family members in DEERS.



Log in to <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil>.



Call 800-538-9552.



Fax 800-336-4416.

What Is the VA?

What Is the VA?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

- Oversees the delivery of patient care and federal benefits to veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

The Veterans Health Administration:

- Is a component of the VA that is home to the nation's largest integrated healthcare system consisting of VA outpatient clinics, hospitals, medical centers, and long-term healthcare facilities across the U.S. and in American Samoa, Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Provides comprehensive health care to more than 8.3 million veterans each year.

TRICARE and VA Eligibility

TRICARE and the VA

- Service members who separate from service due to a service-connected injury or illness may be eligible for VA benefits and certain TRICARE benefits depending on the outcome of the medical review board.
- The VA will determine your eligibility. TRICARE- and VA-eligible beneficiaries can choose to use either their TRICARE or VA benefits for each separate episode of care.
- National Guard and Reserve members may also qualify for veteran status and eligibility for VA benefits.
- To apply for VA medical benefits, complete the *Application for Health Benefits* (VA Form 10-10EZ), available at any VA healthcare facility or VA regional office, or online at www.va.gov.

TRICARE and the VA (continued)

- Retired service members under age 65 may be eligible for both TRICARE and VA benefits due to medical or regular retirement.
- Retired service members with service-connected conditions receive care for that condition from either TRICARE or VA.
- If service-connected care is received at a VA facility, it's a VA benefit.
- If care is received through TRICARE, it's a TRICARE benefit.

TRICARE, Medicare and the VA

- Medicare-eligible retired service members may be eligible under TRICARE, Medicare, and the VA.
- Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who use their TRICARE benefit for non-service-connected care at a VA facility will incur out-of-pocket expenses.
- If you receive non-service-connected care at a VA facility, you may be responsible for 80% of the bill. By law, TRICARE can only pay 20% of the TRICARE-allowable amount.
- When using your TRICARE For Life benefit, your least expensive option is to see a Medicare or TRICARE provider who isn't a VA provider.

Getting Care

- Beneficiaries may receive care for non-service-connected conditions.
- Where you access care depends on which TRICARE option you use:
 - If you're enrolled in TRICARE Prime, you must access care from your primary care manager. If you need care and a VA facility near you can provide that care (within TRICARE access standards), you may be asked to use that VA facility with pre-authorization from your regional contractor.
 - If you're enrolled in TRICARE Select, you may access care from any VA facility if space is available.
 - If you're eligible for Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B, you're eligible for TFL. You're advised to seek care for non-service-connected conditions outside VA from a Medicare provider to avoid out-of-pocket expenses.

Line of Duty Care

- Care needed after orders expire
 - If a National Guard or Reserve member lives 50 miles or less from a military hospital or clinic, Line of Duty determination requests go to the military hospital or clinic.
 - If a National Guard or Reserve member lives more than 50 miles from a military hospital or clinic, LOD requests go to the Defense Health Agency—Great Lakes.
 - Find instructions and forms at www.health.mil/Greatlakes, or call 888-647-6676, option 2.

Note: Authorized LOD care is limited to the specific injury, illness, or disease that was incurred or aggravated while in a qualified duty status (for example, if your left arm was injured and an LOD determination was approved for that condition, then care for a right knee issue is not authorized under the same LOD).

VA Facilities

TRICARE Network Providers

- All VA facilities:
 - Sign agreements with regional contractors to become TRICARE network providers. All VA facilities are TRICARE network providers
 - Accept the negotiated rate plus any patient responsibility as payment in full
 - File claims for you
- Provide healthcare services—if space is available—to any TRICARE-eligible beneficiary, not just those with service-connected conditions:
 - TRICARE Prime beneficiaries
 - TRICARE Select
 - TFL beneficiaries

Getting Care

- Each VA facility has established a TRICARE beneficiary point of contact and check-in process.
- When requesting an appointment or registering for care, tell the VA provider that you're using your TRICARE benefit for your visit.
 - Failure to do so may result in higher out-of-pocket fees and/or denial of payment for services you receive.
- Some services may not be available (for example, obstetrics, pediatrics, adolescent psychiatry).
- To locate a VA facility, contact your regional contractor or your VA regional office:
 - Visit www.va.gov.
 - Call **877-222-VETS (877-222-8387)**.

Primary Care Services

- Some VA facilities have PCMs who see TRICARE beneficiaries.
 - Check with your regional contractor to see if you can enroll with a VA TRICARE provider.
 - TRICARE primary care is separate from VA primary care—you can't use both.
- VA primary care isn't normally available to TRICARE beneficiaries who aren't enrolled with a VA TRICARE provider.

Referrals for Specialty Care

- TRICARE Prime beneficiaries:
 - You must have a referral to access specialty care at a VA facility.
- TRICARE Select beneficiaries:
 - A referral isn't required for most services.
 - Contact the VA facility to make an appointment.
 - Pre-authorization is required for some services.
- TFL beneficiaries:
 - Seek care for non-service-connected conditions outside the VA to avoid out-of-pocket expenses.

Pharmacy Options

Pharmacy Services

- VA pharmacies will only fill prescriptions written by VA providers.
- If you receive primary or specialty care at a VA facility using your VA benefit, fill prescriptions through a VA pharmacy.
- If you receive care through TRICARE for your service-connected condition, fill prescriptions through the TRICARE Pharmacy Program.

Pharmacy Options

Military Pharmacy



- Usually inside military hospitals and clinics
- Get up to a 90-day supply

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery



- Must use this option for some drugs
- Get up to a 90-day supply

TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacy



- Fill prescriptions without submitting a claim
- Get up to a 30-day supply

Non-Network Pharmacy

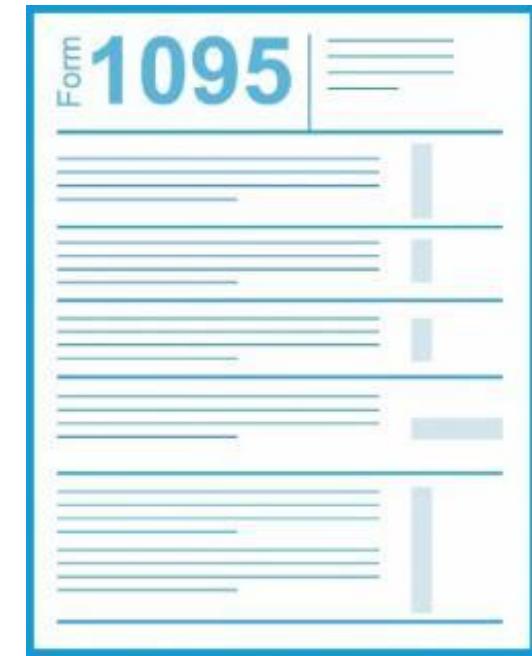


- Pay full price up front and file a claim to get a portion of your money back
- Get up to a 30-day supply

Other Important Information

The Affordable Care Act

- TRICARE meets the minimum essential coverage requirement under the Affordable Care Act.
- Each tax year, you'll get an IRS Form 1095 from your pay center. It will list your TRICARE coverage for each month.
- Your Social Security number and the Social Security number of each of your covered family members should be included in DEERS for your TRICARE coverage to be reflected accurately.



For Information and Assistance

More Information

Regional Contractors

- TRICARE East Region
Humana Military
800-444-5445
www.tricare.mil/east
- TRICARE West Region
TriWest Healthcare Alliance
888-TRIWEST (888-874-9378)
www.tricare.mil/west
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
877-222-VETS (877-222-8387)
www.va.gov

Resources

- TRICARE Website: www.tricare.mil



- TRICARE Publications:
www.tricare.mil/publications
- milConnect:
<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/>