GUIDANCE ON TRANSITIONAL HEALTHCARE BENEFITS FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

Section 736 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2002 (P.L. 107-107; 115 Stat. 1172) repealed section 1074b of title 10, United States Code, (U.S.C.) which previously provided transitional healthcare for members ordered to active duty in support of contingency operations and the dependents of those members. Section 736 also amended section 1145 of title 10, U.S.C., to make transitional healthcare under this provision permanent. Furthermore, it extended coverage under section 1145 to include Reserve component (RC) members ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation. Members with six or more years of total active federal service (indicated on the DD 214) are entitled to transitional healthcare for 120 days. Members with less than six years of total active federal service are entitled to transitional healthcare for 60 days. Dependent family members of RC members released from active duty on or after January 1, 2002, are retroactively entitled to the same benefits under the Worldwide TRICARE Transitional Healthcare Demonstration.

Transitional Healthcare Eligibility In DEERS

Eligibility for transitional healthcare benefits will be reflected in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) for eligible Reserve component members and their dependents. If the member is denied a medical claim because he or she has been improperly coded as ineligible in DEERS, the member should contact the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Support Office prior to resubmitting further healthcare claims. Appropriate documentation (Copy of order to active duty, and DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) must be provided to DMDC to verify eligibility and recoding in DEERS. Once eligibility is established, healthcare claims may be resubmitted.

Eligible RC members and their dependents, who require an ID card for healthcare in a Military Medical Treatment Facility may use their Reserve ID cards for access, since eligibility will be reflected in DEERS. In the future, the member will receive a DD Form 2765, United States Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card when out-processing for release from active duty. Dependents may obtain a DD Form 1173-1, United States Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card reflecting transitional healthcare benefits. However, at this time the ID Card facilities do not currently have the capability to process ID cards reflecting transitional healthcare benefits. This problem should be rectified sometime after September 2002. The DMDC Support Office will provide additional guidance at that time.

Transitional Medical Benefits

Eligible RC members and their family are entitled to healthcare benefits through the Military Healthcare System including space available care and TRICARE.

TRICARE Prime: RC members will automatically be disenrolled from TRICARE Prime upon release from active duty. The member must actively re-enroll him/herself and/or his/her family members if they wish to continue the TRICARE Prime benefit during the transitional healthcare period. To reenroll in TRICARE Prime, the member should contact the regional TRICARE managed care support contractor or their local TRICARE service center. The TRICARE website at www.tricare.osd.mil will link them to the region in which they will receive healthcare. From that link, they can find the correct phone number. The enrollment form is also available on the TRICARE Website. The TRICARE Information Center can also help at 1-877-DoD Care (363-2273).

NOTE: Family members who were not enrolled during their sponsor's active duty period are eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime. Members should be aware that all initial enrollment periods shall begin on the first day of the month following the month in which the enrollment application is received by the contractor. If an application is received by the contractor after the 20th day of the month, enrollment will begin on the first day of the second month in which they were received by the contractor. In the interim, the member and his or her dependents may use TRICARE Standard or Extra. For more information, members can contact the regional TRICARE managed care support contractor or their local TRICARE service center. RC members and their family members are not eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote under the Transitional Healthcare Program.

TRICARE Standard or Extra: No enrollment is required for TRICARE Standard and Extra, however, the beneficiary must be seen by a TRICARE Authorized Provider or Network Provider.

NOTE: If the member or eligible family members have other healthcare insurance, TRICARE becomes the second payer.

Transitional Dental Benefits

Eligible Reserve component members and their families are entitled to transitional dental care on a space available basis at military dental treatment facilities only, which may be limited. However, the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) is available for eligible Reserve component members, and their family members, if the member has at least a 12-month service commitment remaining. To enroll in TDP, the member should contact United Concordia (UCCI) at 1-888-622-2256.

If the member was enrolled in the TDP prior to being ordered to active duty, he or she will automatically be reenrolled upon release from active duty. (If the member has completed the 12-month enrollment commitment prior to being called or ordered to active duty, he or she may contact UCCI to stop your automatic reenrollment). The member should verify his or her enrollment status with UCCI prior to seeking treatment. Family members who are enrolled prior to release from active duty will remain enrolled but will be responsible for paying the full premium.

For more information on eligibility for benefits, contact the DMDC Support Office or for questions about TRICARE contact the nearest TRICARE Regional Office.

TRICARE
1-888-DoD Care
M-F 9am-7pm EST
Sat 11am-4pm
http://www.tricare.osd.mil

United Concordia
Monday-Friday 8am-8pm EST
Enrollment or Billing: 1-888-622-2256
Claims Information 1-800-866-8499
http://www.ucci.com

DMDC Support Office
Monday – Friday 5am-5pm PST
1-800-538-9552
http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/