



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1500

RESERVE AFFAIRS

1 8 JUL 2002

Dear Reserve Component Member:

Our records indicate that you and your family members (if any) are eligible for transitional medical and dental care within the military healthcare system following your release from active duty. The enclosed information describes the eligibility criteria, the period you are eligible for transitional healthcare, and the medical and dental benefits available to you and your family.

As you may know, access to military health care requires proper coding of your record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and your record reflects eligibility for the transitional healthcare benefit. However, since the law was recently amended to provide you with transitional healthcare for a longer period, DEERS is being updated to reflect the increased periods of eligibility. We have also coded the dependents you have reported in DEERS as eligible, based on your service. If you have not updated the information on your dependents recently, you may want to consider updating that information.

I want to personally thank you for answering the call to duty and your commitment to our country. If you need additional information on benefits eligibility contact your Service Personnel representative and if you have questions about TRICARE contact your nearest TRICARE Regional Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig W. Duehring".

Craig W. Duehring  
Principal Deputy

Enclosure:  
As stated

## TRANSITIONAL HEALTHCARE

### Eligibility Criteria

**30 days of transitional healthcare.** If you were called or ordered to active duty in support of a contingency operation and released on or before December 31, 2001, you and your dependents are eligible for transitional healthcare until the earlier of 30 days after your release from active duty, or the date on which you and your dependents are covered by an employer sponsored healthcare plan.

**60 days of transitional healthcare.** If you were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation and released from active duty on or after January 1, 2002, and you have served less than 6 years of total active service, you and your dependents (if any) are entitled to transitional healthcare for 60 days after release from active duty.

**120 days of transitional healthcare.** If you were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation and released from active duty on or after January 1, 2002, and you have served for 6 or more years total active service, you and your dependents (if any) are entitled to transitional healthcare for 120 days after release from active duty.

### **NOTES:**

1. Your total years of active service are indicated in block 12.d. of your DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.
2. Eligibility for transitional healthcare benefits should be reflected in DEERS. If you submit a medical claim and it is denied because you or your dependents are not coded as eligible, you should contact the DMDC Support Office listed below.
3. If you find that the information on either you or your dependents is not correct, you should contact a Verifying Official at an ID Card facility to determine what information is missing. You may have to provide the verifying official with a copy of your orders and your DD Form 214. DEERS is your key to benefits eligibility for you and your family members.

### Medical Benefits

You and your family members are eligible for healthcare through the Military Healthcare System, including space available care and TRICARE. However, healthcare on a space available basis is limited.

**TRICARE Prime:** You will automatically be disenrolled from TRICARE Prime upon release from active duty. You must actively reenroll yourself, and/or your family members if they wish to continue the TRICARE Prime benefit during the transitional healthcare period. To reenroll in TRICARE Prime, contact the regional TRICARE managed care support contractor (1-888-DoD Care ) or your local TRICARE service center, or you may download the enrollment form from the regional TRICARE Website. Family members who were not enrolled during your active duty period are eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime.

**NOTE:** You and your family members who were not enrolled during your active duty period are eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime. You should be aware that all initial enrollment periods 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 after the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month, enrollment will begin on the first day of the second month after the month in which the enrollment is received by the contractor. In the interim, you may use TRICARE Standard or Extra. For more information contact the regional TRICARE managed care support contractor or their local TRICARE service center.

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

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

### **Dental Benefits**

You and your family 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 to you and your eligible family members if you have at least a 12-month service commitment remaining. For enrollment information contact United Concordia (UCCI).

If you were enrolled in the TDP prior to being called to active duty, you should automatically be reenrolled upon release from active duty. If you had completed your 12-month enrollment commitment prior to activation, you may contact United Concordia (UCCI) at (1-888-622-2256) to stop your automatic re-enrollment. You should verify your enrollment with UCCI prior to seeking treatment. Family members who are enrolled in TDP prior to your release from active duty will remain enrolled but will be responsible for the full premium.

**Assistance.** If you experience a problem, you should contact the appropriate office listed below:

TRICARE  
1-888-DoD Care  
M-F 9am-7pm EST  
SAT 11am-4pm EST  
<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/>

July 17, 2002