



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUN 11 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
TRICARE REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Designation of TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) Areas

Reference: (a) United States Code, Title 10, Chapter 55, Section 1074(c)(3)
(b) Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 199
(c) TRICARE Operations Manual, Chapter 17, Section 1

Federal regulation requires Active Duty Service Members (ADSM) to enroll into TRICARE Prime (32 CFR 199.17(b)(2)). The TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) program is available for ADSMs assigned to locations without a nearby military treatment facility (MTF) who meet specific TPR eligibility criteria. TPR areas are geographic areas determined to be either greater than fifty (50) miles or approximately one hour drive from a MTF that have been designated as adequate to provide the needed primary care services for the ADSM. ADSMs who are not eligible for TPR must enroll in TRICARE Prime and will be assigned to a primary care manager at a local MTF. No waiver of access to care travel standards is required by the MTF commander to enroll these ADSMs.

TRICARE Regional Office (TRO) directors are responsible for designating TPR areas. This approval authority may not be delegated. This policy refines the methodology (Attached) TRO directors shall follow in designating TPR areas. Exceptions to this policy are not authorized.

Our point of contact is LTC Steven Roth, who may be reached by telephone at (703) 681-0039 or by e-mail at steven.roth@tma.osd.mil.

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Attachment:
As stated

HA POLICY: 07-020

cc:

Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, PHS
Director, Medical Programs, USMC
Director, Health and Safety, USCG
Director, Health and Safety, NOAA

Designation of TRICARE Prime Remote Areas

ATTACHMENT

Each TRICARE Regional Office (TRO) will maintain a list of ZIP codes in which the entire geographic area is either greater than fifty (50) miles or approximately one hour drive from a military treatment facility (MTF) that has been designated as adequate to provide the needed primary care services for the ADSM (note that in many instances, a particular location may be less than 50 miles in straight-line distance from an MTF, but more than one hour drive time).

After consultation with MTF commanders, each TRO will establish and maintain a second list of ZIP codes in which a portion of the ZIP code's geographic area is inside that 50 mile/1 hour limit and a portion of the same ZIP code is outside that 50 mile/1 hour limit.

MTF commanders or their Services may appeal the TRO director's designation of these two ZIP code lists to the Deputy Director, TMA. No information other than distance/drive-time will be considered, including the effect of the decision on MTF enrollment capacity and MTF productivity.

TRICARE regional contractors, MTF commanders, and TRO directors will adopt, for common use, no fewer than three (3) Web-based mapping programs (e.g., MapQuest[®], Maps On Us[®], Map Point[®], Yahoo Maps[®], or a substantially equivalent program) to establish the second list and to make TPR eligibility determinations for individual service members. If at least one of the three Web-based mapping programs adopted for use indicates the normal drive time for an ADSM meets the drive time standard for TPR, the ADSM and family members shall be enrolled in TPR. Note that geographic and other barriers to travel (existing road networks, draw bridges, tunnels, traffic congestion, commuting patterns, bodies of water, etc.) shall be taken into consideration when measuring drive time.

The Services may require individual active duty members enrolled to TPR to authorize review of their civilian health records by a MTF provider if there are fitness for duty related concerns, such as for those members in Active Special Duty positions.