

[\[Categorical Listing\]](#) [\[Numerical Listing\]](#)



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

Aug 25 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

SUBJECT: Policy For TRICARE Enrollment Portability for Active Duty Families


As we continue with worldwide implementation of TRICARE, effective July 1, 1997, active duty family members can transfer their TRICARE Prime enrollment when they move from one location to another. This change is called portability. Our goal is to further expand the portability benefit to retirees and their families by the end of 1997.

Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime are able to remain enrolled when they move so they will not experience any gaps in their Prime coverage. Once they arrive at their new location, Prime enrollees should select a new Primary Care Manager (PCM) to transfer their enrollment. While in a transient status, TRICARE Prime authorization requirements continue to apply to enrollees. Emergency care requires no prior authorization, but all non-emergency care must be authorized by the enrollee's PCM or Health Care Finder in order to receive care with the TRICARE Prime copayments. Routine or well-visit care will normally not be authorized while an enrollee is traveling. This care should be obtained after the enrollee arrives at the new location.

If a Prime enrollee plans to temporarily reside out of the enrollment area for more than thirty days, he or she should transfer enrollment to the temporary residence. This is particularly important for active duty family members who plan to temporarily reside elsewhere when the active duty member is deployed, especially for those who are pregnant and plan to deliver at their temporary location. These enrollees should transfer their enrollment to ensure routine prenatal care and the delivery are obtained with TRICARE Prime copayments. If TRICARE Prime is not available at the temporary residence, then they should disenroll from TRICARE Prime when they leave, obtain obstetrical care using TRICARE Standard, and reenroll when they return to their permanent residence. As a note, obstetrical care under TRICARE Standard is cost-shared using a global reimbursement; the beneficiary is responsible for a \$25 cost-share for all care required during the pregnancy.

Key to successful implementation is ensuring our TRICARE Prime enrollees are informed and understand this enhancement to TRICARE Prime. Portability is vital to our worldwide health care delivery system and significantly improves the TRICARE Prime option for our mobile beneficiary population. Our point

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[\[Top\]](#)

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