



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAR 30 2009

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

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance for Use of Supplemental Health Care Program Funds to Pay
for Required Physical Examinations for Members on the Temporary
Disability Retirement List

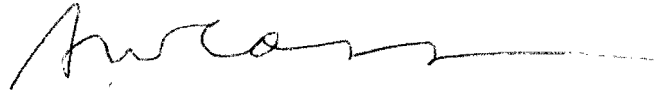
Reference: (a) Title 10, United States Code, Sections 1074(c) and 1210(a)
(b) 32 Code of Federal Regulations 199.17 (d)(1)(A)

This policy guidance memorandum replaces the previous guidance issued on December 12, 2008. Effective the date of this memorandum, Supplemental Health Care Program (SHCP) funds may be used to pay for the required periodic physical re-examination for members in the Disability Evaluation System who were placed on the Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL) when some or all of the examination is performed by Veterans Affairs (VA) and/or non-governmental/private sector sources. This memorandum is issued under the authority of 10 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 1074(c).

Service members on the TDRL are required by 10 U.S.C. 1210(a) to undergo a physical re-examination at least every 18 months to determine when/if they can be considered "fit for duty." These re-examinations may continue for a maximum of five years, or until the member is returned to duty, separated, or is placed on the Permanent Disability Retirement List. Those on the TDRL should be given an access-to-care priority in the Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) the same as an Active Duty Service member (reference (b)) for the TDRL re-examinations.

In the rare instance where some or all of the required re-examinations cannot be performed within the MTF, SHCP funds may be used to pay for services performed by the VA or in the private sector. Under these circumstances, members on the TDRL will not share in the cost of the examination; they will not be subject to cost shares or deductibles. Authority is not granted, however, to use SHCP funds to treat the conditions which caused the member to be placed on the TDRL or for conditions discovered during the TDRL physical re-examination. Instead, the member should seek treatment for these conditions through whichever retiree health plan they have selected.

My point of contact for this policy guidance is Lieutenant Colonel Judith Schulik, who may be reached at (703) 681-0059 or Judith.Schulik@tma.osd.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ward Casscells', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S. Ward Casscells, MD

cc:

Surgeon General of the Army

Surgeon General of the Navy

Surgeon General of the Air Force

TRICARE Regional Directors