



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

JAN 16 2009

HEALTH AFFAIRS

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 Memorandum for Preauthorization of Routine and Urgent Medical Care Provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to Active Duty Service Members in Terminal Leave Status

References: (a) 32 CFR 199.17(b)(2)
(b) Health Affairs Memorandum, Enrollment of Active Duty Service Members in Terminal Leave Status, November 8, 2006 (attached)
(c) HA/TMA, TRICARE Operations Manual, Chapter 8

This policy establishes requirements for preauthorization by military treatment facilities (MTFs) of routine and urgent medical care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for active duty service member (ADSM) TRICARE Prime enrollees in a terminal leave status. This policy does not apply to care received by ADSMs from the VA under the terms of the "Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense for Medical Treatment Provided to Active Duty Service Members with Polytrauma Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Blindness," dated January 1, 2007.


The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has established policy to provide routine and urgent medical care for ADSMs in terminal leave status. ADSMs require prior authorization for routine or urgent care received outside of an MTF.

The Services shall advise ADSMs enrolled at an MTF and transitioning to terminal leave status how they should access health care services until their separation or retirement date. The Services shall determine if the ADSM intends, while in terminal leave status, to reside outside of the PSA of the MTF where the ADSM is enrolled. If that is the case, the MTF, utilizing procedures specified in reference (c), shall issue to the TRICARE MCSC a single preauthorization for the ADSM to obtain from the VA any necessary routine or urgent outpatient medical care. The period covered by this preauthorization shall be the entire anticipated span of the terminal leave period. This preauthorization shall be sent to the MCSC before the ADSM departs his or her final duty station to commence terminal leave. It shall not include authorization for any private sector care. ADSMs on terminal leave who desire to obtain routine or urgent medical

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care in the private sector must first, for each episode of care, secure an authorization to do so from the MTF where they are enrolled.

The point of contact for this policy memorandum is Michael O'Bar, Acting Deputy Chief, TRICARE Policy and Operations Directorate, TRICARE Management Activity. He may be contacted at (703) 681-0039 or by email at michael.o'bar@tma.osd.mil.



S. Ward Casscells, MD

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
TRICARE Regional Directors



HEALTH AFFAIRS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
DIRECTOR, HEALTH AND SAFETY, U.S. COAST
GUARD
DIRECTOR, TRICARE REGIONAL OFFICE NORTH
DIRECTOR, TRICARE REGIONAL OFFICE SOUTH
DIRECTOR, TRICARE REGIONAL OFFICE WEST
DIRECTOR, TRICARE AREA OFFICE-EUROPE
DIRECTOR, TRICARE AREA OFFICE-PACIFIC
DIRECTOR, TRICARE AREA OFFICE-LATIN AMERICA
AND CANADA

SUBJECT: Enrollment of Active Duty Service Members in Terminal Leave Status

**Reference: Health Affairs Policy, 05-014, Policy Guidance for Active Duty Service
Member Enrollment to TRICARE Prime, August 19, 2005**

Enrollment to TRICARE Prime is mandatory for all active duty service members (ADSMs). This requirement does not end when the ADSM goes on terminal leave status. ADSMs in terminal leave status shall remain enrolled in TRICARE Prime at their final duty station until their separation or retirement date.

The Services shall ensure that ADSMs departing their final duty station are briefed about how they should access health care services while in terminal leave status.

My point of contact is LTC Steven Roth, TRICARE Operations Division,
(703) 681-0039.

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