



HEALTH AFFAIRS

## THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

JAN 22 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)  
COMMANDANT, US COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: TRICARE Prime Enrollment Policy for Reserve Component Members and their Families

- References: (a) 10 U.S.C. 1074(a)  
(b) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006  
(c) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004  
(d) Health Affairs Policy 04-013, June 8, 2004  
(e) Health Affairs Policy 03-004, March 10, 2003

This memorandum clarifies TRICARE Prime enrollment policy for Reserve component (RC) members and their families. This policy memorandum cancels and supercedes HA Policy Memoranda 03-004 and 04-013. This memorandum also describes an entitlement to medical and dental care by direct commission Reserve officers who meet certain criteria established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (NDAA for FY04) that were amended with a technical correction by the NDAA for FY06.

RC members reporting for active duty for more than 30 days or who are issued delayed-effective-date active duty orders for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, and their family members, become eligible for Active Duty Service Member (ADSM) and Active Duty Family Member (ADFM) TRICARE-covered health and dental services. The Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) is updated, accordingly, showing family members eligible for service under TRICARE Standard (and TRICARE Extra), as well as space-available services at military treatment facilities (MTFs). Family members may apply for TRICARE Prime in areas where it is available any time, thereafter.

DEERS will show RC members' entitlement to medical and dental care in the direct care system. These members may also receive care from civilian providers in accordance with rules of the Supplemental Health Care Program. They shall not be enrolled into one of the TRICARE Prime programs unless, and until, they reach their final duty station location. They will then follow the same enrollment procedures

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followed by other ADSMs at their duty station, which may include enrollment to TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR). It is possible that an RC member assigned to a duty station overseas, particularly one with organic medical assets, may not enroll into one of the TRICARE Prime programs during the time that he or she is on station overseas. This clarifies the intent of HA Policy 04-013 for MTFs to stop enrolling RC members into TRICARE Prime when the member is enroute to a final duty station located elsewhere.

Special rules apply to TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM). A family member is eligible to enroll in TPRADFM if the family member was residing with his or her RC sponsor at the time the member either: (a) was issued a delayed-effective-date active duty order or (b) reported to active duty for more than thirty days at an address that would meet either the distance or the drive time TPR eligibility criteria. Once enrolled, they may continue in TPRADFM only while they continue to live at that address. Transfers of TPRADFM coverage to another TPR area are not authorized.

Medical and dental care shall be delivered through the Military Health System to eligible Reserve component commissioned officers in an inactive duty status who are awaiting initial active duty orders and meet other criteria including lack of other health coverage. These Reserve officers have the same priority for care as ADSMs. The personnel community will determine eligibility for these members according to established personnel policy and procedures and will record eligibility in DEERS. Since the same health care delivery plan (HCDP) codes used in DEERS for ADSMs will be assigned to these members, their DEERS eligibility will look the same as ADSMs. Accordingly, these officers are entitled to care in any direct care facility and may receive care from civilian providers in accordance with rules of the Supplemental Health Care Program. They may enroll in TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote in accordance with established rules. Officers choosing to enroll in TRICARE Prime programs will be assigned a primary care manager (where appropriate, for those in TPR). My point of contact is LTC Steven Roth, who may be reached at 703-681-0039 or [Steven.Roth@tma.osd.mil](mailto:Steven.Roth@tma.osd.mil).

  
William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

cc: Surgeon General of the Army  
Surgeon General of the Navy  
Surgeon General of the Air Force  
Chief Medical Officer of the Coast Guard

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