

The Update September 23-October 7, 2011

1. TRICARE Pharmacy Co-Pays Change:

Effective October 1, 2011 pharmacy co-pays change. Be prepared to field any questions and concerns from beneficiaries (you know they will react). Feel free to share the following: This is the first change to prescription co-pays since 2002. Military treatment facilities and the Home Delivery option are the most cost-effective choices to obtain prescription drugs and provide the best value to the Department of Defense (of course this statement isn't something a beneficiary wants to hear)

Information is available on the web at www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts . Announcements were within the pharmacy explanation of benefits starting September 6, 2011.

Effective October 1, 2011

Pharmacy Option	Formulary		Non-formulary
	Generic	Brand-name	
MTF Pharmacy <i>(up to a 90-day supply)</i>	\$0	\$0	N/A
Home Delivery <i>(up to a 90-day supply)</i>	\$0	\$9	\$25
Retail Network Pharmacy <i>(up to a 30-day supply)</i>	\$5	\$12	\$25
Non-network Retail Pharmacy <i>(up to a 30-day supply)</i>	TRICARE Prime: 50% cost-share after point-of-service deductible is met Other Programs: \$12 or 20% of total cost <i>(whichever is greater)</i> after the annual deductible is met		TRICARE Prime: 50% cost-share after point-of-service deductible is met Other Programs: \$25 or 20% of total cost <i>(whichever is greater)</i> after the annual deductible is met

2. TRICARE Beneficiaries Reassured of Continued Pharmacy Service:

Walgreens will leave the network starting January 1, 2012 if a resolution with Express Scripts, Inc (ESI) isn't reached. ESI sent out letters to TRICARE beneficiaries' informing them of this possibility and provided alternatives to receive their medication. ESI has over 56,000 retail network pharmacies available to beneficiaries. Home Delivery is another option with no co-pays for generic medications. If there is no resolution, effective January 1, 2012, beneficiaries who fill their prescriptions at Walgreens have to pay the full cost for the medications and file for a reimbursement at the non-retail pharmacy rate.

3. TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) Extended to Survivors:

The TDP is now available to all eligible dependent of active duty service members who died while on active duty and to eligible dependents of Ready Reserve members (i.e. National Guard, Reserve, or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)).

4. TRICARE Prime Enrollment Fee Increase:

It's happened! The Prime enrollment fees are rising and we're here to give you ammunition to combat the ire from disgruntled beneficiaries. The current 2011 TRICARE Prime enrollment fees are \$ 230 individual/\$460 family. Starting October 1, 2011 they will increase to \$260 individual/\$520 family for new enrollment applications received by the contractor on or after October 1, 2011.

Beneficiaries who get their enrollment forms in to their regional contractor before October 1, 2011 will continue to pay the 2011 rates. Please note this isn't the postmarked date on the envelope but the day the contractor receives it.

There are some exclusions to the rate increase and they apply to the following:

- Survivors (spouse/dependents) of deceased active duty sponsors
- Medically retired members and their eligible dependents

These beneficiaries will have their TRICARE Prime enrollment fees frozen at the rates in the year they enroll and pay Prime enrollment fees. The enrollment fees for survivors of deceased active duty sponsors, and medically-retired sponsors and their dependents remain at the same rate when they first enrolled in Prime, unless there is a break in TRICARE Prime coverage. We will provide Frequently Asked Questions once they're approved. If you have questions please let us know by emailing us at trow.southwest@trow.osd.mil; you can also visit <https://www.TRICARE.mil/costs> for more information