



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAY 03 2005

HEALTH AFFAIRS

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

SUBJECT: Transitional Survivor Healthcare Benefits for Overseas Family Members

Transitional survivors are the family members of active duty Service personnel who have died while in an active duty status serving their country. Transitional survivors who accompanied their active duty sponsor on orders in his/her assignment outside of the continental United States and are residing overseas at the time of their sponsor's death will now be eligible for three-year transitional health care benefits under the TRICARE Overseas Program Prime. The policy is based on the Transitional Survivor Healthcare Benefits Program for family members residing in the continental United States and is to be implemented as described in the attachment.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have served our country and made the ultimate sacrifice. It is fitting that policy be changed to provide the same Transitional Survivor Healthcare Benefits to the family members residing overseas who supported their active duty members and experienced a significant loss.

My point of contact for additional information is CDR David Walton. He may be reached at (703) 681-0039.


William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Service Surgeons General
Joint Staff Surgeon
TAO Directors

HA POLICY: 05-004

- For family members who were currently enrolled in TRICARE Prime at a military treatment facility (MTF) at the time of their sponsor's death, enrollment in TRICARE Prime continues to be authorized during the transitional survivor benefit period.
- If the transitional survivors are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime, the transitional survivor's priority for appointments at MTFs will be the same as that of family members of active duty service members who are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime.
- For transitional survivors who were located overseas with the sponsor and enrolled in the TRICARE Overseas Program Prime under the TRICARE Global Remote Overseas Contract or the TRICARE Puerto Rico Contract, their enrollment may be continued in the TRICARE Overseas Program Prime during the transitional survivor benefit period.
- Transitional survivors who choose to disenroll from TRICARE Prime at an overseas MTF and relocate to a remote site overseas will be eligible for health benefits under TRICARE Standard. They will remain eligible for health benefits at the active duty family member rates for the three-year period.
- If transitional survivors choose to return to CONUS, they will be able to enroll in TRICARE Prime where there is a TRICARE Prime service area or have benefits under TRICARE Extra or Standard in locations not covered by the TRICARE Prime benefit. Transitional survivors are not eligible for enrollment in TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members.
- Transitional survivors who were enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) prior to their sponsor's death will continue to receive TDP benefits for three years from the month following the sponsor's death. The Department of Defense will pay the survivor's dental premiums during the extended dental benefit period.
- At the end of the three-year period, TRICARE eligibility continues, but at the retiree dependent rates.