



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO

6320
Ser M3/5/AT-75287
18 Aug 10

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Subj: MEDICAL CARE FOR CAREGIVERS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES
RECOVERING FROM SERIOUS INJURIES OR ILLNESSES

Ref: (a) National Defense Authorization Act 2008, subsection 1672
(b) MILPERSMAN 1770-230, Bedside Travel

Encl: (1) DEPSECDEF Policy Memorandum OSD 03558-10 of 1 April 2010, "Medical Care
for Caregivers of Members of the Armed Forces Recovering from Serious Injuries or
Illnesses"


1. This memorandum provides Navy Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) with interim guidance on providing care to designated caregivers supporting our seriously injured and ill Service members. Per enclosure (1) and reference (a), a family member or non-family member designated as the caregiver by the service member, is authorized inpatient and outpatient medical care through the MTF on a space available basis. The provision of care must not interfere with the facility's primary mission. Enclosure (1) further specifies that the service member must have incurred a serious injury or illness on active duty that may render the member medically unfit to perform his/her duties. Additionally, the caregiver must be placed on invitational orders, identified as a non-medical attendant, or receiving per diem payments from Department of Defense (DoD) in order to qualify. MTFs will pursue cost recovery of care provided through the third party collections program and track patient encounters/costs.

2. Upon identification of a service member recovering from a serious injury or illness, the Department Head of Patient Administration will ensure that written designation of a caregiver by the service member, or MTF Ethics Committee if the service member is unable to provide designation, is obtained and a copy maintained on file. Proper notification will be made to the Service Personnel Casualty Office. Required documentation regarding the caregiver and their need at the bedside will be provided to ensure prompt issuance of orders per reference (b). In addition, MTFs will capture medical care cost data using patient category "K99, sub-category B, patient not elsewhere classified," unless a more applicable patient category code is identified. Operational Forces Medical Liaison personnel will render support to assist designated caregivers in ensuring lodging and food arrangements are made, and to assist with the prompt resolution of other issues. The goal is to ensure the caregiver's attention remains focused on supporting the Service member's needs.

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3. Authorization for care terminates for the caregiver when the above specified criteria cease to be met. It is imperative that Navy Medicine Regional Commanders and MTF Commanders, Commanding Officers, and Officers in Charge provide their strong leadership, management, and oversight in the provision of care and support for recovering service member caregivers. This guidance remains in effect until superseded by future issuance of a BUMED instruction governing this support program.

4. My points of contact for this policy are CAPT Susan Chittum, at (202) 762-3014 or e-mail at Susan.Chittum@med.navy.mil; Mr. Skip Katon, at (202) 762-3144 or e-mail at Floyd.Katon@med.navy.mil; and LCDR Robert Poerschmann, MSC, USN, at (202) 762-3152 or e-mail at Robert.Poerschmann@med.navy.mil.


A. M. ROBINSON, JR.



**DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010**

APR 01 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Medical Care for Caregivers of Members of the Armed Forces Recovering from Serious Injuries or Illnesses

The Department of Defense (DoD) policy is to ensure that each member of the Armed Forces who is injured or ill receives the care necessary to further his or her rehabilitation and recovery. In some situations involving serious injury or illness, medical authorities may determine that the presence of a significant person to the Service member may contribute to the member's health and welfare. The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008, Section 1672, authorizes a family member who is caring for a member of the Armed Forces recovering from serious injuries or illnesses to receive medical care at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) on a space-available basis. In accordance with the authority contained in Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 55, Section 1074 (c), I authorize a family member or a non-family member designated as the caregiver by the Service member to receive inpatient and outpatient medical care at a MTF on a space-available basis as specified below:

First, for the designated caregiver to qualify, the Service member's injury or illness must be incurred in the line of duty while on Active Duty in the Armed Forces and be of such severity that the Service member may be rendered medically unfit to perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating as contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Section 1602.

Second, the designated caregiver must be:

- (1) on invitational orders while caring for the Service member;
- (2) a nonmedical attendant caring for the Service member; or
- (3) receiving per diem payments from DoD while caring for the Service member.

When the qualifications above are fulfilled, space-available inpatient/outpatient medical care is authorized for the qualified caregiver at any MTF. Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 55, Section 1076 specifies that the commanding officer or the officer-in-charge at the designated MTF will determine what care is available based on space, facilities, and the capabilities of the medical staff. Care authorized by this policy may not be permitted to interfere with the primary mission of the MTF.



OSD 03558-10



MTF staff will pursue recovery of the costs of medical care provided to the caregiver from third-party payers in the same manner as costs are collected for the provision of care for trauma care and other medical care provided to civilians (Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 55, Section 1095).

Authorization for care terminates for the caregiver when the qualifications specified above cease to be met. Each Military Department is to disseminate implementation instructions to its respective MTFs. Instructions are to include a tracking mechanism with respect to patient, designated caregiver, and DoD healthcare costs attributed to the caregiver.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. R. Byrne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

SEC. 1672. MEDICAL CARE FOR FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES RECOVERING FROM SERIOUS INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

(a) Medical Care at Military Medical Facilities-

(1) **MEDICAL CARE-** A family member of a recovering service member who is not otherwise eligible for medical care at a military medical treatment facility may be eligible for such care at such facilities, on a space-available basis, if the family member is--

(A) on invitational orders while caring for the service member;

(B) a non-medical attendee caring for the service member; or

(C) receiving per diem payments from the Department of Defense while caring for the service member.

(2) **SPECIFICATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS-** The Secretary of Defense may prescribe in regulations the family members of recovering service members who shall be considered to be a family member of a service member for purposes of this subsection.

(3) **SPECIFICATION OF CARE-** The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe in regulations the medical care that may be available to family members under this subsection at military medical treatment facilities.

(4) **RECOVERY OF COSTS-** The United States may recover the costs of the provision of medical care under this subsection as follows (as applicable):

(A) From third-party payers, in the same manner as the United States may collect costs of the charges of health care provided to covered beneficiaries from third-party payers under section 1095 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) As if such care was provided under the authority of section 1784 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) Medical Care at Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities-

(1) **MEDICAL CARE-** When a recovering service member is receiving hospital care and medical services at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may provide medical

care for eligible family members under this section when that care is readily available at that Department facility and on a space-available basis.

(2) REGULATIONS- The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe in regulations the medical care that may be available to family members under this subsection at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

MILPERSMAN 1770-230

TRANSPORTATION OF NEXT OF KIN TO THE BEDSIDE OF SERIOUSLY ILL OR INJURED MEMBERS

Responsible Office	NAVPERSCOM (PERS-331)	Phone:	DSN COM FAX	882-3460 (901) 874-3460 882-2722
	NAVPERSCOM (PERS-62D)	Phone:	DSN COM FAX	882-4297 (901) 874-4297 882-6654

Governing Directives	Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR), Volume 1, Paras. U5212 and U5246 OPNAVINST 4650.15
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1. **Policy.** Funded round-trip transportation is authorized for not more than two family members to visit a seriously ill or injured active duty member, hospitalized in or outside the United States. Such transportation is authorized when the attending physician/surgeon and the commander/head of the military medical facility exercising military control over the member determine in writing that the presence of family members is medically necessary for the health and welfare of the member concerned.

2. **Eligible Travelers**

a. Eligible travelers are

- (1) spouse.
- (2) children (including step, adopted, and illegitimate).
- (3) siblings of the member.
- (4) parents of the member (includes fathers and mothers through adoption and persons who have stood in loco parentis to the member for a period of at least 1 year immediately before the member entered the Uniformed Service).

b. The spouse shall be afforded first opportunity for such transportation and the option to determine the other eligible traveler. The child(ren) will be given the next option. When there is no surviving spouse or child(ren), the member's biological parents will be given the next transportation option. If only one parent can travel at government expense, Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) (PERS-621) will decide which parent will be provided transportation.

3. Transportation Arrangements

a. When NAVPERSCOM (PERS-621) is advised that presence of next of kin is medically warranted, the eligible traveler(s) will be contacted via telephone, issued travel orders and advised that arrangements have been made for their transportation. Government/government-procured transportation will be used to the maximum extent practical especially in connection with international/transoceanic travel (which should be arranged through a Navy Passenger Transportation Office (NAVPTO)). See OPNAVINST 4650.15.

b. Navy Personnel Command (PERS-621) will contact the host command or naval activity nearest the facility where the member is hospitalized for assignment of a courtesy Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) to meet the traveler's flight(s), transport them to the member's bedside, arrange lodging/hotel accommodations and provide assistance while they are visiting the member.

c. Upon completion of family member travel, courtesy CACOs will be assigned to assist family members in completing travel claims. Contact NAVPERSCOM, Casualty Assistance Branch (PERS-621) for additional guidance or assistance.

4. Reimbursable Expenses

a. Reimbursement for privately owned vehicle travel is authorized upon completion of travel for the driver of the vehicle only.

b. Reimbursement for the cost of personally procured commercial transportation may not exceed the cost of government procured transportation.

c. Reimbursement of expenses outlined in NAVSO P-6034, volume 1, para. U5212 is authorized in connection with this travel.

5. Non-Reimbursable Expenses. Per diem is not payable in connection with such travel.