THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF/MR)
DIRECTOR, RESERVE AND TRAINING (G-WT)
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: Clarification on Policy for Enrollment in TRICARE Prime in Overseas TRICARE Regions

References: ASD (HA) Policy 97-052, Policy for Enrollment in TRICARE Prime in Overseas TRICARE Regions, May 21, 1997
TRICARE Policy Manual, Chapter 12, Section 1.1 VII A and B JFTR Appendix A, page A-7 (Change 213 dated 09/01/04)

There are differing interpretations across overseas regions with respect to enrollment of active duty family members (ADFMs) into the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Prime and the TRICARE Global Remote Overseas (TGRO) Program. To clarify Health Affairs Policy 97-052, only ADFMs who meet the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) definition of Command Sponsored shall be eligible for enrollment into TOP Prime or TGRO, with the exception of those who meet one of the four criteria on the attached list.

Those ADFMs who choose to reside overseas but are not Command Sponsored as defined in the JFTR, and who do not meet any of the exceptions on the attached list, will remain eligible for TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Plus, or space-available care when and where it is available.

This policy clarification also serves as a reminder of the overseas screening and Exceptional Family Members Program requirements for assigning ADFMs overseas.

My point of contact on this matter is Commander Dave Walton, who may be reached at (703) 681-0039.

William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Service Surgeons General
Overseas Unified Commands

**Exceptions to Policy for Enrollment in TRICARE Prime in Overseas Regions**

1. If the active duty Service member and his/her Command Sponsored active duty family members (ADFM) are enrolled in TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Prime or TRICARE Global Remote Overseas (TGRO) and the sponsor is reassigned on unaccompanied orders to a location that does not permit Command Sponsored family members, the family member(s) can remain enrolled at their current TOP Prime or TGRO site, as long as they remain Command Sponsored. If the family member(s) do not relocate elsewhere during the sponsor's Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move, then the family may remain enrolled in TOP Prime or TGRO for a period based on the length of the sponsor's unaccompanied orders but not to exceed two years. The normal unaccompanied tour is 24 months or fewer.

2. If ADFMs are allowed to relocate under the sponsor's PCS orders, in accordance with JFTR U5222, or Noncombatant Evacuation Orders without the sponsor to an outside-of-the continental United States location supported by TOP Prime or TGRO, then the ADFMs will be eligible for enrollment in the overseas program consistent with their orders.

3. If ADFMs are currently enrolled in TOP Prime or TGRO and the family has a newborn or adopts a child, then the new family member will be eligible to enroll in the appropriate overseas program.

4. If the ADFM is a transitional survivor, that individual may remain enrolled in TOP Prime for the duration specified for transitional survivor benefits.