OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 20 2010

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, U.S. COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: TRICARE Enrollment Policy for Activating Reserve Component Members and Their Families

References: (a) Health Affairs Policy 07-002, January 22, 2007
(b) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 and NDAA for FY 2010 codified at Title 10, United States Code, 1074

This memorandum clarifies the TRICARE Prime enrollment policy for activating Reserve Component (RC) members and their families. This policy memorandum cancels and supersedes Health Affairs (HA) Policy Memorandum 07-002.

RC members called or ordered to 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 (early eligibility) are entitled to TRICARE-covered health and dental services on the same basis as Active Duty Service members (ADSMs). Their family members become eligible for TRICARE-covered health and dental services on the same basis as Active Duty family members. In the case of early eligibility, the effective date is the later of either: (a) the date of issuance of the delayed-effective Active-Duty-order, or, (b) 180 days before the date on which the period of Active Duty is to commence under such order for that member (reference (b)). The Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS) is updated accordingly to reflect TRICARE eligibility.

Once DEERS is updated, RC members with early eligibility have two choices for accessing treatment prior to reaching their final duty station:

1. Enroll in TRICARE Prime. If the RC member resides within 50 miles or about 1 hour from a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), the member is permitted to enroll in TRICARE Prime and be assigned to a primary care manager (PCM) at that MTF on the same basis as an ADSM. RC members enrolled in TRICARE Prime must follow TRICARE Prime rules. Neither TRICARE Network PCM assignment nor TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) is authorized.

2. Not Enroll in TRICARE Prime. The RC member may seek covered primary care from a TRICARE-authorized civilian provider. Prior to obtaining any specialty care, the RC member should contact the appropriate TRICARE regional or overseas Managed Care Support Contractor to obtain authorization. If the member needs assistance in locating a TRICARE-authorized provider, he/she may contact the appropriate regional or overseas contractor.

Regardless of whether or not the RC member has early eligibility, once activated, the RC member should not enroll/re-enroll into a TRICARE Prime program *while enroute* to his or her final duty location (e.g., at training or embarkation/mobilization location). Upon reaching the final duty station, RC members should follow their active command's guidance regarding TRICARE Prime enrollment, which could include enrollment in TPR if applicable.

Once DEERS is updated, eligible family members are qualified for TRICARE Standard and Extra, as well as for space-available services in an MTF. Family members may also enroll in TRICARE Prime where locally available.

Special rules apply to TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) for family members of activating RC members. A family member is eligible to enroll in TPRADFM if the family member was residing with the RC member/sponsor in a TPR zip code at the time the member either: (a) was issued a delayed-effective-date Active Duty order, or (b) reported for Active Duty. Once enrolled in TPRADFM, the family member may continue in TPRADFM only while they continue to live at that address. Transfers of TPRADFM coverage from one TPR area to another TPR area are not authorized.

Charles L. Rice, M.D.
President, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)

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