

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN #05 – 762 WORDS – 03/05/09

LEAD MUSIC (:03)

THIS IS THE TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN, AN UPDATE ON THE LATEST NEWS TO HELP YOU MAKE THE BEST USE OF YOUR TRICARE BENEFIT. I'M AUSTIN CAMACHO (:10)

FIRST UP: THE NAVY WILL SUPPLY TRICARE'S NEXT DEPUTY DIRECTOR. REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTINE HUNTER WILL TAKE OVER AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY WHEN ARMY MAJOR GENERAL ELDER GRANGER RETIRES FROM TMA IN MAY. GENERAL GRANGER HAS HELD THE POST SINCE DECEMBER OF 2005.

ADMIRAL HUNTER BRINGS SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL AND BUSINESS EXPERTISE TO TMA. SHE IS TRIPLE BOARD CERTIFIED IN INTERNAL MEDICINE, HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY. AND AS SHE SAYS, SHE ALSO BRINGS A KNACK FOR PUSHING MILITARY MEDICINE INTO THE FUTURE.

(02:30) "I'M A PACE SETTER. AND IT TURNS OUT THAT ALTHOUGH I WOULDN'T HAVE USED THE WORD CREATIVE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF EARLY ON, I'M VERY GOOD AT USING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO IMPLEMENT CREATIVITY. SO INNOVATION MAY NOT BE MY IDEA BUT I'M THE PERSON WHO CAN GET IT DONE." (:21 SEC)

SHE SHOWED THAT CREATIVITY DEVELOPING THE ROLE OF HOSPITAL SHIPS AS A PLATFORM FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. AND, WHILE SHE WAS DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES AT NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO FROM 1995-98, SHE WAS ALREADY FOCUSED ON TRICARE BENEFICIARIES.

(3:22) "I'VE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED EARLY ON IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRICARE SENIOR PRIME WHICH IS THE PROGRAM TRICARE FOR LIFE FOR ELDERS, THAT WAS THE PREDECESSOR FOR THAT, THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO USE THEIR TRICARE BENEFITS ON INTO THEIR SENIOR YEARS AND CONTINUE TO GET CARE AT THE MILITARY CENTERS." (:19)

AS COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST AND NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO, ADMIRAL HUNTER SPONSORED THE COMPREHENSIVE COMBAT & COMPLEX CASUALTY CARE CENTER, THE PREMIER WEST COAST PROGRAM FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS OF ALL SERVICES.

ONE OF GENERAL GRANGER'S TRICARE INNOVATIONS HAS BEEN A BLOG THAT ADDRESSES BENEFICIARY CONCERNS, AS ANN MARIE FELICIO REPORTS.

THE TRICARE BLOG, LAUNCHED LAST SUMMER, IS HAVING A POSITIVE IMPACT, WORLDWIDE. TRICARE IS THE ONLY MAJOR HEALTHCARE PROGRAM TO HAVE A BLOG WHERE ITS BENEFICIARIES, PROVIDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS CAN MAKE COMMENTS AND HAVE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

THE BLOG, AT **WWW.TRICARE.MIL/TMABLOG** HAS RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF COMMENTS AND THOUSANDS OF VISITS, INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN THE MILITARY HEALTH

SYSTEM, AND LETTING BENEFICIARIES BECOME PART OF THE CONVERSATION.

BY RESPONDING TO ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY, TRICARE'S BLOG MAKES ACCESSING CARE EASIER AND CLARIFIES ISSUES AND QUESTIONS BENEFICIARIES HAVE. THE TRICARE WEB SITE CONTAINS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT DIFFERENT HEALTH PLANS, PROGRAMS AND AVAILABLE BENEFITS. WITH SO MUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE, IT HELPS TO GET GUIDANCE ON WHERE TO FIND IT. THE TRICARE BLOG DOES JUST THAT.

NOT ONLY DOES THE BLOG COVER TOPICS OF IMPORTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES, IT HELPS DIRECTS THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS ON THE TRICARE WEB SITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PAST BLOGS ADDRESSED SUCH TOPICS AS THE ECHO BENEFIT, THE AUTISM DEMONSTRATION, ACCESS TO CARE AND THE SHINGLES VACCINE. SINCE THE BLOG WENT UP, THE NUMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ON BEHALF OF BENEFICIARIES

HAS DROPPED BY ALMOST 50 PERCENT. IT'S TOO SOON TO TELL IF IT'S A DIRECT RESULT OF THE BLOG, BUT IT IS WORTH NOTING.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNMARIE FELICIO.

AND FINALLY, ROB FOX TELLS US ABOUT THE "SHARE YOUR CARE" VIDEO CONTEST.

THE MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM IS RUNNING "SHARE YOUR CARE," A VIDEO CONTEST TO SHOWCASE THE PEOPLE, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF OUR SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES.

THE CONTEST, OPEN TO ALL SERVICE MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND MHS PERSONNEL, IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. THE M-H-S IS USING THE SOCIAL MEDIA WEB SITE, YOUTUBE, TO MANAGE AND COLLECT SUBMISSIONS. WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A COVETED COIN FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF

DEFENSE, DR. S. WARD CASSCELLS, AND HAVE THEIR VIDEOS
FEATURED ON WWW.HEALTH.MIL.

THIS VIDEO CONTEST GIVES SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES A CHANCE TO SHARE THEIR STORIES OF WHERE THE
MHS'S COMMITMENT TO CARE IS BEST EMBODIED.

VIDEOS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A RANGE OF MILITARY HEALTH
TOPICS, SUCH AS OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES AND MEDICAL
PROVIDERS, REHABILITATION EXPERIENCES OR VOLUNTEER
EFFORTS.

THE VIDEOS COULD BE ABOUT CARE RECEIVED AT A WARRIOR
TRANSITION UNIT, OR A MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY, OR
MAYBE A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL WHO MADE THE
DIFFERENCE SUCH AS A DOCTOR, A NURSE, A PHYSICAL
THERAPIST, OR A RECEPTIONIST WHO BRINGS A SMILE TO WORK
EVERY DAY.

THE YOUTUBE COMMUNITY WILL VOTE ON THEIR FAVORITE VIDEOS, SELECTING THE TOP FIVE AS WINNERS. THE CONTEST ENDS ON MARCH 30. FULL RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.HEALTH.MIL/SHAREYOURCARE.

FOR THE TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ROB FOX.

AND THAT'S TODAY'S TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN. WE'LL HAVE MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE NEXT WEEK. (:03)

TAIL MUSIC (:03)