

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN #07 – 762 WORDS – 03/19/09

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: TRICARE BENEFICIARIES HAVE ACCESS TO DOD SELF-SERVICE LOGON. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY MEMBER ACCOUNT TO ACCESS DEERS, THE DEFENSE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY REPORTING SYSTEM, HAS A NEW NAME AND THE WEB SITE HAS A NEW LOOK. IT IS NOW CALLED "DS LOGON." A SECURE DOD SELF-SERVICE LOGON—OR "DS LOGON"—IS ISSUED TO UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS IN THE DEERS SYSTEM SO THEY CAN ACCESS SECURE DOD WEB APPLICATIONS.

A DS LOGON ELECTRONICALLY LINKS A TRICARE BENEFICIARY'S IDENTITY TO THEIR MEDICAL RECORDS, PAY AND HUMAN RESOURCE SYSTEMS, AND LETS THEM ACCESS THE BENEFICIARY WEB ENROLLMENT WEB SITE.

THE DS LOGON ACCESS MANAGER IS AT WWW.DMDC.OSD.MIL/DSACCESS. SPONSORS CAN GO THERE AND USE THEIR CAC CARD OR MYPAY CODE TO CREATE A DS LOGON PIN. THE SPONSOR CAN ALSO REQUEST A DS LOGON FOR ANY FAMILY MEMBER WHO'S 18 OR OLDER. THEY'LL GET A PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IN THE MAIL, ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACTIVATE THE DS LOGON. FAMILY MEMBERS CAN ALSO REQUEST A DS LOGON FOR THEMSELVES AT A RAPIDS STATION WHEN THEY ARE GETTING AN IDENTIFICATION CARD AND A PIN NUMBER WILL BE MAILED TO THEM.

NEXT, PAYING TRICARE ENROLLMENT FEES ELECTRONICALLY IS EASY, AS ANNMARIE FELICIO REPORTS

PAYING ENROLLMENT FEES ELECTRONICALLY MAY BE
REQUIRED IN THE NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE—SO WHY NOT TRY
IT NOW?

WITH WIDESPREAD ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, PEOPLE ARE
FINDING IT EASY TO PAY BILLS ELECTRONICALLY. PAYING
TRICARE ENROLLMENT FEES ONLINE IS EASY TOO. AND
MAKING TIMELY, SECURE AND AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS FROM
THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME MAKES PAYING BILLS
STRESS-FREE.

TRICARE'S THREE MANAGED CARE SUPPORT CONTRACTOR'S
CAN ALL ASSIST WITH ELECTRONIC ENROLLMENT FEE
PAYMENTS. THE CONTRACTORS OFFER DIFFERENT OPTIONS,
INCLUDING ALLOTMENTS FROM RETIREMENT PAY, ELECTRONIC
FUNDS TRANSFERS FROM THE ENROLLEE'S FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION, OR CREDIT CARD CHARGES. THE CONTRACTORS
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THE INFORMATION NEEDED
TO START MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS AND ELECTRONIC FUNDS
TRANSFERS.

AN ALLOTMENT IS THE MOST CONVENIENT, RELIABLE AND SECURE FORM OF ENROLLMENT FEE PAYMENT. A SIMPLE ENROLLMENT FEE ALLOTMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM, AVAILABLE ON EACH CONTRACTOR'S WEB SITE, IS ALL YOU NEED TO START THE BALL ROLLING.

IF THESE ELECTRONIC OPTIONS ARE REQUIRED IN THE FUTURE, THE ONLY TIME A CHECK WOULD BE ACCEPTED IS FOR THE FIRST PAYMENT TO COVER THE NEXT QUARTERLY PERIOD WHILE AN ALLOTMENT OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS OF PAYMENT IS BEING PROCESSED.

YOU CAN MAKE THE CHANGE TO A MORE CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTION NOW BY VISITING THE WEB SITE OF YOUR TRICARE REGIONAL MANAGED CARE CONTRACTOR.

FOR THE TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

AND FINALLY, TRICARE WANTS TO REMIND ACTIVATED NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS THAT THEIR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES CAN SAVE UP TO THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLES.

ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS OF GUARD AND RESERVE PERSONNEL ACTIVATED FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS UNDER FEDERAL ORDERS IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE STANDARD AND TRICARE EXTRA. NORMALLY, THE ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLE FOR STANDARD AND EXTRA IS \$300 FOR FAMILIES, BUT THIS DEDUCTIBLE IS WAIVED FOR THESE GUARD AND RESERVE FAMILIES.

THE BENEFIT WAIVING ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLES WAS INTRODUCED AS ONE OF THE FIRST TRICARE ENHANCEMENTS AFTER SEPT. 11, 2001, TO HELP THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SERVICE MEMBERS ACTIVATED TO SUPPORT THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM. IT

WAS A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT UNTIL OCTOBER 2008 WHEN IT BECAME PERMANENT.

GUARD OR RESERVE FAMILIES OFTEN MEET ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLES UNDER THEIR COMMERCIAL PLANS BEFORE THEY GET ACTIVATED. WAIVING THE TRICARE STANDARD AND EXTRA DEDUCTIBLES MEANS ELIGIBLE FAMILIES DON'T HAVE TO PAY ADDITIONAL DEDUCTIBLES UNDER TRICARE.

THE REGULATION ALSO CONTAINS PROVISIONS THAT MAKE IT EASIER FOR RESERVE AND GUARD MEMBERS TO CONTINUE TO SEE THEIR FAMILY PHYSICIANS BY POTENTIALLY INCREASING THE AMOUNT THAT CAN BE PAID TO OUT-OF-NETWORK HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

TO ENSURE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TRICARE RESERVE FAMILY BENEFIT, ACTIVATED RESERVE AND GUARD MEMBERS SHOULD VISIT THEIR LOCAL MILITARY ID CARD ISSUING FACILITY AND UPDATE THEIR INFORMATION IN DEERS, THE DEFENSE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY REPORTING SYSTEM.

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

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