

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – AUGUST 4, 2011 – 768 WORDS

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 LORRAINE CWIEKA. (:10)

FIRST UP: ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON THE SPLIT ENROLLMENT OPTION WITH TRICARE PRIME.

SPLIT ENROLLMENT ALLOWS ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO DO NOT LIVE WITH THEIR SPONSOR TO ENROLL IN TRICARE PRIME AS LONG AS THEY RESIDE IN AN AREA WHERE TRICARE PRIME IS AVAILABLE. SPLIT ENROLLMENT IS ESPECIALLY HELPFUL FOR FAMILIES WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS, CHILDREN LIVING WITH FORMER SPOUSES OR FAMILIES THAT ARE OTHERWISE SEPARATED.

CHILDREN WHO ARE TRICARE-ELIGIBLE BASED ON THEIR SPONSOR'S STATUS REMAIN ELIGIBLE UNTIL REACHING AGE 21 OR AGE 23 IF ENROLLED IN A FULL-TIME COURSE OF STUDY AT AN APPROVED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING, AND IF THE SPONSOR PROVIDES AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

TO USE SPLIT ENROLLMENT, THE SPONSOR SHOULD COMPLETE AND SIGN A TRICARE PRIME ENROLLMENT FORM AND SEND IT TO THEIR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR. IF YOUR FAMILY MEMBER IS MOVING TO A DIFFERENT REGION, SEND THE FORM TO HIS OR HER NEW REGIONAL CONTRACTOR.

THE SPONSOR MUST NOTIFY EACH FAMILY MEMBER'S REGIONAL CONTRACTOR OF THE SPLIT ENROLLMENT STATUS AND ESTABLISH ONE FAMILY ENROLLMENT FEE, IF APPLICABLE. IF YOUR CHILD ENROLLS SEPARATELY IN TRICARE PRIME AFTER ARRIVING AT COLLEGE, AND NO OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ENROLLED IN TRICARE PRIME, IT IS CONSIDERED A SINGLE ENROLLMENT.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN TRICARE PRIME IS AUTOMATICALLY RENEWED AFTER ONE YEAR, UNLESS THE RENEWAL OFFER IS DECLINED. AN UNPAID ENROLLMENT FEE WILL CAUSE THE ENTIRE FAMILY TO BE DISENROLLED AND A 12-MONTH LOCKOUT WILL RESULT.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT CONTINUE ENROLLMENT IN TRICARE PRIME, HE OR SHE WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY COVERED BY TRICARE STANDARD AND TRICARE EXTRA AS LONG AS HIS OR HER DEERS INFORMATION IS CURRENT. VISIT WWW.TRICARE.MIL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT USING TRICARE STANDARD AND TRICARE EXTRA.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

NEXT: ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR TRICARE BENEFICIARIES.

THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE CAN BRING TREMENDOUS GRIEF AND SADNESS TO SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS. IT'S COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT TRICARE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS IF A SPONSOR DIES.

IF A BENEFICIARY IS THE SPOUSE OF AN ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER WHO DIES WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, THE BENEFICIARY BECOMES ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSITIONAL TRICARE SURVIVOR BENEFITS. FOR THREE YEARS FOLLOWING HIS OR HER DEATH, THE BENEFICIARY WILL HAVE ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBER BENEFITS AND COSTS. AFTER THREE YEARS, A BENEFICIARY REMAINS ELIGIBLE, AS A "SURVIVOR," FOR TRICARE STANDARD AND TRICARE EXTRA, AND MAY PURCHASE TRICARE PRIME AT THE RETIREE RATES. IF A BENEFICIARY IS OVERSEAS, HE OR SHE REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM STANDARD ONCE THE TRANSITIONAL SURVIVOR STATUS ENDS.

IF THE CHILD OF AN ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER DIES WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, HE OR SHE REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE BENEFITS AS AN ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBER. THEIR TRANSITIONAL SURVIVOR STATUS ENDS AT AGE 21 OR 23 IF THE BENEFICIARY IS ENROLLED IN A FULL-TIME COURSE OF STUDY.

IN THE UNITED STATES AND U.S. TERRITORIES, THE PHARMACY BENEFIT REMAINS THE SAME REGARDLESS OF TRICARE PROGRAM OPTION.

THE TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN IS A THREE-YEAR BENEFIT FOR TRANSITIONAL SURVIVORS. THERE ARE NO MONTHLY PREMIUMS, BUT THE BENEFICIARY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING APPLICABLE COST-SHARES FOR COVERED SERVICES. WHEN THE SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ENDS, THE BENEFICIARY CAN ENROLL IN THE TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM. THE RETIREE PLAN MAY ALSO BE AVAILABLE IF THE BENEFICIARY DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR THE SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION OF TRICARE SURVIVOR
BENEFITS, VISIT TRICARE.MIL.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

IMMUNIZATIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT TOOL IN PREVENTING MANY
DISEASES. TRAVELERS ARE OFTEN EXPOSED TO VARIOUS VIRUSES
AND BACTERIA FROM AIRPORTS, AIRPLANES, INFECTED TRAVELERS
AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
PREVENTION RECOMMENDS TRAVELERS OF ALL AGES RECEIVE
VACCINATIONS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

NECESSARY IMMUNIZATIONS DEPEND ON A VARIETY OF FACTORS
SUCH AS THE TRAVELER'S AGE, HEALTH STATUS, PAST
IMMUNIZATIONS AND THE DESTINATION. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
INCLUDE WHETHER THE TRAVELER IS PREGNANT, BREASTFEEDING,
TRAVELING WITH INFANTS OR CHILDREN, OR IF THEY HAVE A
COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEM DUE TO DISEASE SUCH AS

DIABETES OR HIV.

BENEFICIARIES WHO PLAN TO TAKE A VACATION, SHOULD SPEAK WITH THEIR PRIMARY CARE MANAGER TO FIND OUT WHICH IMMUNIZATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED FOR THEIR DESTINATION. IT'S BEST TO SCHEDULE A VISIT TO YOUR PRIMARY CARE MANAGER AT LEAST FOUR TO SIX WEEKS BEFORE TRAVELING, AS MANY IMMUNIZATIONS TAKE TIME TO EFFECTIVELY GUARD AGAINST DISEASES, AND SOME MAY REQUIRE A SERIES OF VACCINATIONS.

TRICARE COVERS AGE-APPROPRIATE DOSES OF VACCINES RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION. IMMUNIZATIONS FOR ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBERS WHOSE SPONSORS HAVE PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION ORDERS TO OVERSEAS LOCATIONS ARE ALSO COVERED. BENEFICIARIES SHOULD CHECK WITH THEIR PRIMARY CARE MANAGER OR REGIONAL HEALTH CARE CONTRACTOR TO FIND OUT IF THE IMMUNIZATION THEY NEED IS COVERED.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRICARE IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE VISIT
TRICARE.MIL/MYBENEFIT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRAVEL
VACCINES, VISIT CDC.GOV.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)