

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – AUGUST 11, 2011 – 705 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 AUSTIN CAMACHO. (:10)

FIRST UP: LORRAINE CWIEKA REPORTS ON TRICARE'S TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE OPTION.

WHEN SERVICE MEMBERS LEAVE ACTIVE DUTY, TRICARE OFFERS A TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE OPTION FOR ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES AND THEIR FAMILIES UNTIL THEY FIND NEW HEALTH COVERAGE.

THE TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, OR TAMP, EXTENDS TRICARE ELIGIBILITY FOR SPONSORS AND THEIR FAMILY WHO INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATE FROM THE MILITARY

PRIOR TO RETIREMENT. SPONSORS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS
MAY BE COVERED UNDER TAMP IF THE SPONSOR IS:

- INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATING FROM ACTIVE DUTY UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS;
- A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OR RESERVE SEPARATING FROM A PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY THAT WAS MORE THAN 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION;
- SEPARATING FROM ACTIVE DUTY FOLLOWING INVOLUNTARY RETENTION IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION;
- SEPARATING FROM ACTIVE DUTY FOLLOWING A VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO STAY ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION;
- SEPARATING FROM ACTIVE DUTY WITH AN AGREEMENT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SELECTED RESERVE OF THE READY RESERVE OF A RESERVE COMPONENT WITHOUT A BREAK IN SERVICE; OR
- SEPARATING FROM ACTIVE DUTY DUE TO SOLE SURVIVORSHIP DISCHARGE.

SPONSORS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR TAMP WHILE ON TERMINAL LEAVE, PERMISSIVE TEMPORARY DUTY OR AUTHORIZED EXCESS LEAVE.

IF A BENEFICIARY QUALIFIES, THE 180-DAY TAMP PERIOD BEGINS THE DAY AFTER THE DATE OF SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE DUTY. UNDER TAMP, THE BENEFICIARY AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY COVERED UNDER TRICARE STANDARD AND TRICARE EXTRA. IF A BENEFICIARY LIVES OVERSEAS, HE OR SHE IS COVERED UNDER TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM STANDARD.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TAMP AND ENROLLMENT OPTIONS, GO TO TRICARE.MIL/TAMP.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA.

NEXT: ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON THE RETROACTIVE COVERAGE DEADLINE FOR TRICARE YOUNG ADULT.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE RETROACTIVE TRICARE YOUNG ADULT COVERAGE EXPIRES ON SEPTEMBER 30TH. RETROACTIVE COVERAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS GOES BACK TO JANUARY 1ST, OR THE DAY THEY BECAME ELIGIBLE IF THAT WAS AFTER JANUARY 1.

ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES MAY CHOOSE TO PURCHASE RETROACTIVE COVERAGE IF THEY'VE HAD SIGNIFICANT HEALTH CARE EXPENSES THAT WEREN'T COVERED BY OTHER INSURANCE. ONCE ENROLLED, BENEFICIARIES MAY FILE A CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS FOR COVERED CARE. ADDITIONALLY, YOUNG ADULTS IN THE CONTINUED HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PROGRAM MAY ELECT TO PURCHASE RETROACTIVE COVERAGE AND RECEIVE A REFUND FOR THEIR CHCPB FEES.

THOSE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING RETROACTIVE COVERAGE MUST ENSURE THEIR APPLICATION FORM IS RECEIVED BY THE REGIONAL OR OVERSEAS HEALTH CARE CONTRACTOR BY SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2011. ALL PREMIUMS – BOTH RETROACTIVE AND THE INITIAL THREE-MONTH PAYMENT – MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION.

THE APPLICATION AND PAYMENT CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT A TRICARE SERVICE CENTER, OR MAILED OR FAXED TO THE REGIONAL OR OVERSEAS HEALTH CARE CONTRACTOR.

TO BE REIMBURSED FOR COVERED SERVICES, RECEIPTS FOR CARE MUST BE INCLUDED WHEN A CLAIM IS FILED.

BEFORE CHOOSING TO PURCHASE TRICARE YOUNG ADULT, BENEFICIARIES SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL OF THEIR HEALTH CARE COVERAGE OPTIONS AND BALANCE ALL THE COSTS. COMPLETE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT TRICARE.MIL/TYA.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

THERE IS AN OLD PHRASE THAT SAYS "SEEING IS BELIEVING," BUT WHEN IT COMES TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION "SEEING IS ACHIEVING." EIGHTY PERCENT OF WHAT CHILDREN LEARN IN

SCHOOL IS PRESENTED VISUALLY, AND UNDIAGNOSED VISION PROBLEMS MAY AFFECT THE READING ABILITY OF CHILDREN AND LEAD TO POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET CHILDREN SCREENED FOR VISION ISSUES THAT CAN AFFECT THEM IN THE CLASSROOM AND FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. ROUTINE EYE EXAMS CAN NOT ONLY HELP DETECT CORRECTABLE CONDITIONS SUCH AS NEARSIGHTEDNESS, FARSIGHTEDNESS AND/OR ASTIGMATISM, BUT CAN ALSO HELP ENSURE EYE HEALTH.

SOME SIGNS A CHILD MIGHT HAVE VISION DIFFICULTIES ARE:

- SQUINTING, CLOSING OR COVERING ONE EYE;
- HOLDING A BOOK CLOSE TO THE FACE;
- SITTING CLOSER THAN EXPECTED TO THE TELEVISION OR COMPUTER SCREEN;
- LOSING HIS OR HER PLACE WHILE READING;
- HEADACHE, NAUSEA OR DIZZINESS;
- EXCESSIVE CLUMSINESS OR

- PERFORMING BELOW POTENTIAL.

PREVENTIVE CARE AND ROUTINE CHECK-UPS FOR CHILDREN UP TO AGE SIX, INCLUDING NEWBORN CARE, SCREENINGS, IMMUNIZATIONS, AND DEVELOPMENT APPRAISALS ARE COVERED THROUGH THE TRICARE WELL-CHILD BENEFIT.

TRICARE ALSO COVERS CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF PLAN, FOR ONE EYE AND VISION SCREENING AT BIRTH AND 6 MONTHS OF AGE BY THEIR PRIMARY CARE MANAGER. IT ALSO COVERS TWO COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 3 AND 6. AFTER AGE 6, THEY MAY RECEIVE AN EYE EXAM DEPENDING ON THEIR TRICARE PLAN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRICARE'S VISION COVERAGE, VISIT TRICARE.MIL/MYBENEFIT.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)