

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 17, 2011 – 729 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)

TODAY MARKS THE 36TH GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT! THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY IS ENCOURAGING SMOKERS TO USE THIS DATE TO MAKE A PLAN TO QUIT, OR SET TODAY AS THEIR DATE TO QUIT SMOKING. TRICARE RECOGNIZES THAT QUITTING IS NOT EASY, BUT IT CAN BE DONE – EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE QUIT SMOKING FOR THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT. IF YOU SMOKE, THIS YEAR WE CHALLENGE YOU TO BE ONE OF THEM.

THOSE WANTING TO JOIN THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT CAN FIND SUPPORT THROUGH SEVERAL TRICARE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RESOURCES. ALL NON-MEDICARE ELIGIBLE

BENEFICIARIES CAN RECEIVE ASSISTANCE WITH SMOKING CESSATION THROUGH TRICARE'S TOLL-FREE SMOKING QUITLINE. TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE LINES ARE AVAILABLE IN EACH TRICARE REGION, OFFERING SUPPORT 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S TOBACCO CESSATION CAMPAIGN WEBSITE, [UCANQUIT2.ORG](http://UCANQUIT2.ORG), PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE TOOLS AND SUPPORT NEEDED TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE READY TO QUIT SMOKING.

ONE OF THE FEATURED TOOLS ON THE WEBSITE IS TRAIN2QUIT, AN ONLINE SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT USES INTERACTIVE COMPONENTS SUCH AS SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRES, QUIZZES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. INDIVIDUALS CAN CREATE A CUSTOMIZABLE QUIT PLAN WITH A CALENDAR TO TRACK PROGRESS AND LEARN HOW TO BEAT CRAVINGS, OVERCOME WEIGHT GAIN AND COPE WITH THE EFFECTS OF NICOTINE WITHDRAWAL.

VISITORS TO THE SITE CAN PLAY FUN GAMES LIKE TEXAS HOLD 'EM,

PARTICIPATE IN BLOGS FOR PEER SUPPORT AND GET LINKS TO SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES LIKE TWITTER, FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE. THERE IS ALSO MEDICATION INFORMATION, NEWS ARTICLES, PODCASTS AND MORE.

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NEXT: ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON USING TRICARE WITH OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE.

TRICARE IS THE LAST PAYER TO ALL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND INSURANCE PLANS, EXCEPT FOR MEDICAID, TRICARE SUPPLEMENTS, THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND PLANS IDENTIFIED BY THE TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.

IF YOU HAVE OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE, OR OHI, YOU SHOULD SEND PROOF OF YOUR OHI TO YOUR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR OR BRING IT TO A UNIFORMED SERVICES ID CARD-ISSUING FACILITY.

YOU SHOULD FOLLOW YOUR OHI'S RULES FOR SEEKING CARE AND FILING CLAIMS. **FILE WITH THE OHI FIRST.** IF THERE IS A BILLED

AMOUNT YOUR OHI DOES NOT COVER, YOU MAY FILE A CLAIM WITH TRICARE. IF YOUR OHI DENIES A CLAIM FOR NOT FOLLOWING ITS RULES—SUCH AS OBTAINING CARE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OR USING A NON-NETWORK PROVIDER—TRICARE MAY ALSO DENY YOUR CLAIM. HOWEVER, IF YOU OBTAIN A STATEMENT FROM YOUR OHI SHOWING THE AMOUNT THAT THE PLAN WOULD HAVE PAID IF THE CLAIM HAD MET THE PLAN’S REQUIREMENTS, YOUR TRICARE CLAIM CAN BE PROCESSED. TRICARE WILL PAY ITS SHARE AS IF YOUR OHI HAD PAID THE AMOUNT SHOWN ON THE STATEMENT, AS LONG AS THE CLAIM ALSO MEETS TRICARE’S REQUIREMENTS. IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT SUCH A STATEMENT, NO PAYMENT FROM TRICARE IS AUTHORIZED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT USING YOUR TRICARE BENEFIT WHEN YOU HAVE OHI, VISIT [TRICARE.MIL/OHI](http://TRICARE.MIL/OHI).

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I’M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

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FINALLY: ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE.

TRICARE ONLY COVERS NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION WHEN IT IS PROVIDED BY AN AMBULANCE SERVICE AND IS MEDICALLY NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH:

- OTHERWISE COVERED SERVICES AND SUPPLIES AND
- A COVERED MEDICAL CONDITION.

NONEMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION IS COVERED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- TRANSFERS BETWEEN HOSPITALS
- TRANSFERS FROM A HOSPITAL-BASED EMERGENCY ROOM TO A HOSPITAL MORE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE REQUIRED CARE
- TRANSFERS BETWEEN A HOSPITAL OR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY AND ANOTHER HOSPITAL-BASED OR FREESTANDING OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC OR DIAGNOSTIC DEPARTMENT OR FACILITY.

ADDITIONALLY, TRICARE MAY COVER TRANSPORTATION OF AN INSTITUTIONALIZED ECHO BENEFICIARY TO OR FROM A FACILITY OR INSTITUTION TO RECEIVE AUTHORIZED ECHO BENEFITS.

TRICARE DOES **NOT** COVER TRANSPORTATION IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- USE OF AN AMBULANCE SERVICE INSTEAD OF A TAXI SERVICE WHEN THE PATIENT'S CONDITION WOULD HAVE PERMITTED USE OF REGULAR PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION
- TRANSPORT OR TRANSFER OF A PATIENT PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING THE PATIENT NEARER TO HOME, FAMILY, FRIENDS OR A PERSONAL PHYSICIAN
- MEDICABS OR AMBICABS THAT FUNCTION PRIMARILY AS PUBLIC PASSENGER CONVEYANCES TRANSPORTING PATIENTS TO AND FROM THEIR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

THE EXCLUSION OF AMBULANCE COVERAGE "PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING THE PATIENT NEARER TO HOME, FAMILY, FRIENDS, OR PERSONAL PHYSICIAN" DOES NOT APPLY WHEN THE AMBULANCE TRANSFER IS MEDICALLY NECESSARY AND

APPROPRIATE. IF THERE IS DOCUMENTATION THAT THE  
AMBULANCE TRANSFER IS FOR REASONS OF MEDICAL NECESSITY  
THEN THE AMBULANCE SERVICE IS NOT PRIMARILY DRIVEN BY  
CONSIDERATIONS OF FAMILY/PATIENT CONVENIENCE AND THE  
EXCLUSION DOES NOT APPLY.

COST-SHARES FOR NONEMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION  
DEPEND ON THE STATUS OF THE PATIENT AT THE TIME OF SERVICE  
AND MAY BE COST-SHARED ON AN OUTPATIENT OR INPATIENT  
BASIS.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)