

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN #15 – 663 WORDS – 05/14/09

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: A CHANGING OF THE GUARD. MAJOR GENERAL ELDER GRANGER HAS REACHED THE END OF HIS TENURE AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY. IN ONE OF HIS FINAL INTERVIEWS, HE SPOKE OF HOW IMPORTANT GOOD HEALTH CARE IS TO THE 2.6 MILLION ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE MEMBERS WHO ARE PREPARED TO GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE TO DEFEND OUR WAY OF LIFE, OFTEN AT GREAT SACRIFICE TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(10:45) SO WE MUST MAKE SURE WE UNDERSTAND THAT SACRIFICE AND THAT PRICE THEY'RE PAYING AND WE MUST

HAVE THE BEST, MOST EFFECTIVE, COST EFFECTIVE, QUALITY DRIVEN, EVIDENCE BASED OUTCOMES, CONTINUITY OF CARE FOCUSED HEALTH PLAN. (:14)

ONE OF THE THINGS GENERAL GRANGER IS PROUD OF IS THE TRICARE BLOG HE STARTED. EACH WEEK HE RAISES A TOPIC IMPORTANT TO TRICARE BENEFICIARIES TO FOSTER DISCUSSION, BUT NOT TO LIMIT IT.

(0:44)YOU DON'T HAVE TO NECESSARILY PUT SOMETHING ON THE BLOG ABOUT THE TOPIC. YOU CAN PUT ANYTHING YOU WANT. YOU CAN ASK A QUESTION ABOUT ANYTHING YOU WANT. LIKE RIGHT NOW THE BLOG IS TALKING ABOUT THE SWINE FLU. **BUT** AT THE SAME TIME YOU CAN GO AND ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHER BENEFITS OR QUESTIONS.”(:20).

THE TRICARE BLOG WILL BE JUST ONE PART OF GENERAL GRANGER'S LEGACY THAT WILL CONTINUE, AS A PLACE FOR BENEFICIARIES TO RAISE ISSUES AND GET ANSWERS. YOU CAN READ IT AND COMMENT AT **WWW.HEALTH.MIL/TMABLOG**.

NEXT UP, A NEW WEB PAGE GUIDES TRICARE BENEFICIARIES TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES, AS LORRAINE CWIEKA REPORTS.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH AND TRICARE IS COMMITTED TO GIVING BENEFICIARIES INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES. A NEW WEB PAGE TAKES THE BRAIN WORK OUT OF SEEKING HELP.

THE NEW WEB PAGE AT **WWW.TRICARE.MIL/MENTALHEALTH** SUPPORTS TWO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INITIATIVES. IT PROMOTES AWARENESS ABOUT POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER TREATMENT, AND HELPS RETURNING SERVICE MEMBERS BY PROVIDING EXPANDED COUNSELING SERVICES. IT ALSO OFFERS SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS DEALING WITH DEPLOYMENT, MOVES AND SEPARATION SITUATIONS.

TRICARE.MIL/MENTALHEALTH IS WHERE BENEFICIARIES CAN FIND INFORMATION ABOUT COMMON CONCERNS, RESOURCES

ON HOW TO GET HELP, AND DETAILS OF THEIR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BENEFITS.

THE INFORMATION FOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS INCLUDES RECENT NEWS ARTICLES, SELF-ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FLYERS AND BROCHURES, AND THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED TRICARE GUIDE, “UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH”.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I’M LORRAINE CWIEKA.

AND FINALLY, ANNMARIE FELICIO EXPLAINS TRICARE COVERAGE FOR INFERTILITY TREATMENTS.

INFERTILITY IS DIFFICULT FOR COUPLES TO COPE WITH. TRICARE BENEFICIARIES WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN A SITUATION WHERE INFERTILITY BECOMES AN ISSUE MAY BE WONDERING WHAT THEIR OPTIONS ARE. THE ANSWER IS, WITH

A FEW IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS, TRICARE COVERS MOST INFERTILITY TREATMENTS.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES TO IDENTIFY PHYSICAL ILLNESSES OR INJURIES TO THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM ARE COVERED FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. INFERTILITY TREATMENTS, CORRECTIVE TREATMENTS AND SURGERIES FOR WOMEN ARE ALSO COVERED. AND CORRECTION OF MALE INFERTILITY MAY BE COST SHARED, BUT THAT'S DETERMINED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

THERAPIES COVERED BY TRICARE INCLUDE HORMONAL TREATMENT, CORRECTIVE SURGERY, ANTIBIOTICS, ADMINISTRATION OF HCG OR RADIATION THERAPY DEPENDING ON THE CAUSE. THESE THERAPIES ARE COVERED FOR BOTH SEXES.

TRICARE EXCLUDES COVERAGE FOR IN-VITRO FERTILIZATION AND THERAPY FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTIONS. REVERSAL OF SURGICAL STERILIZATION IS ALSO NOT COVERED, FOR EITHER SEX.

ALTHOUGH TRICARE DOES NOT COVER IN-VITRO FERTILIZATION, THERE ARE FOUR MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES WHERE IT'S DONE AS PART OF MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS. THOSE ARE WILFORD HALL MEDICAL CENTER IN SAN ANTONIO; TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER IN HONOLULU; WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.; AND THE NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER IN SAN DIEGO. THESE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND BENEFICIARIES WHO PARTICIPATE IN THEM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL HOSPITAL COSTS.

YOU CAN GET MORE DETAILS ABOUT COVERED INFERTILITY TREATMENTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MANAGED CARE CONTRACTOR.

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

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)