

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 12, 2012 – 506 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: ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON TRICARE'S COVERAGE OF THE SHINGLES VACCINE.

TRICARE WANTS TO REMIND BENEFICIARIES THAT THE SHINGLES VACCINE IS COVERED UNDER THE TRICARE RETAIL PHARMACY VACCINE PROGRAM. THE VACCINE IS AVAILABLE AT CIVILIAN RETAIL NETWORK PHARMACIES AT NO COST TO TRICARE PHARMACY BENEFICIARIES 60 YEARS AND OLDER.

BEFORE YOU GO TO THE PHARMACY, CALL THEM FIRST TO VERIFY THE DAYS AND TIMES YOU CAN COME IN FOR A VACCINE, SEE IF THERE ARE ANY RESTRICTIONS AND MAKE SURE THE PHARMACY HAS THE VACCINE YOU NEED. ALSO, MAKE SURE A PHARMACIST GIVES THE VACCINES AND NOT A PROVIDER FROM AN IN-PHARMACY CLINIC TO AVOID POTENTIAL COST SHARES OR COPAYMENTS. BENEFICIARIES MAY STILL OBTAIN THE SHINGLES VACCINES

THROUGH THEIR REGULAR PHYSICIAN, BUT USUAL COST SHARES OR
COPAYMENTS FOR OFFICE VISITS MAY APPLY.

SHINGLES IS A PAINFUL DISEASE THAT STRIKES MOSTLY OLDER ADULTS. A
SINGLE DOSE OF THE SHINGLES VACCINE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTERS
FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR THOSE 60 AND OLDER. IN THE
RECOMMENDED POPULATION, THE VACCINE REDUCES THE CHANCE OF GETTING
SHINGLES BY NEARLY 66 PERCENT.

FOR MORE ON TRICARE COVERAGE OF THE SHINGLES VACCINE GO TO
TRICARE.MIL/SHINGLES.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

TO AVOID LOSING COVERAGE, BENEFICIARIES ENROLLED IN TRICARE RESERVE
SELECT OR TRICARE RETIRED RESERVE WHO PAY MONTHLY PREMIUMS BY
CHECK NEED TO SWITCH TO AN ELECTRONIC FORM OF PAYMENT BEFORE
JANUARY 1, 2013.

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2013, TRICARE WILL ONLY ACCEPT MONTHLY PREMIUM PAYMENTS USING RECURRING AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD, OR BY RECURRING ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER FROM A LINKED BANK ACCOUNT. TO AVOID CONFUSION, BENEFICIARIES SHOULD VERIFY THAT THEIR BANK SENDS EFT PAYMENTS ELECTRONICALLY.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS STREAMLINE ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT AND ENSURE CONTINUOUS COVERAGE FOR BENEFICIARIES. FAILURE TO PAY PREMIUMS BY THE DUE DATE RESULTS IN TERMINATION OF COVERAGE.

BENEFICIARIES CAN CONTACT THEIR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR TO SET UP AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS AND GET MORE INFORMATION. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EACH REGION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT TRICARE.MIL/CONTACTS.

FINALLY: ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON A MULTI-STATE MENINGITIS OUTBREAK.

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ARE CURRENTLY COORDINATING A MULTI-STATE

INVESTIGATION OF FUNGAL MENINGITIS AMONG PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED A STEROID INJECTION INTO THEIR SPINE OR OTHER JOINTS WITH A POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED PRODUCT. SEVERAL OF THESE PATIENTS HAVE SUFFERED STROKES THAT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE RESULTED FROM THEIR INFECTION. THE LOTS OF MEDICATION THAT WERE GIVEN TO PATIENTS HAVE BEEN RECALLED BY THE MANUFACTURER.

THE FOLLOWING STATES RECEIVED THE IMPLICATED PRODUCT: CALIFORNIA, CONNECTICUT, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, IDAHO, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, MARYLAND, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NORTH CAROLINA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEVADA, NEW YORK, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, VIRGINIA, TEXAS, AND WEST VIRGINIA.

CHECK THE CDC HEALTH ADVISORY PAGE AT CDC.GOV FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER STATES THAT MAY BE IDENTIFIED AS THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

THE MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION, AND CDC'S GUIDANCE TO PATIENTS HAS NOT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THIS VOLUNTARY RECALL. IF YOU HAVE HAD AN INJECTION SINCE MAY 21, 2012, ARE FEELING ILL OR EXPERIENCING ANY MENINGITIS SYMPTOMS, OR ARE CONCERNED ABOUT

WHETHER YOU RECEIVED A CONTAMINATED MEDICATION CONTACT YOUR
PHYSICIAN IMMEDIATELY.

VISIT THE CDC WEB SITE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES AND PATIENT
INFORMATION.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)