

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – JULY 16 - 669 WORDS (612)

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: TRICARE HAS SELECTED NEW REGIONAL MANAGED CARE SUPPORT CONTRACTORS, AS ANN MARIE FELICIO REPORTS.

THIS WEEK TRICARE ANNOUNCED THE SELECTION OF NEW MANAGED CARE SUPPORT CONTRACTORS FOR THE NORTH, SOUTH AND WEST REGIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THIS IS THE THIRD GENERATION OF TRICARE MANAGED CARE SUPPORT CONTRACTS. TRANSITION FROM THE CURRENT CONTRACTS IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, WITH THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY UNDER THE NEW CONTRACTS

EXPECTED TO BEGIN APRIL 1, 2010. THE TRANSITION TAKES PLACE DURING THE BASE PERIOD AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY BEGINS WITH THE FIRST OPTION.

THE TRICARE WEST REGION RETAINS ITS CURRENT CONTRACTOR, TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE CORPORATION. THE SELECTED CONTRACTORS IN BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH ARE NEW.

AETNA GOVERNMENT HEALTH PLANS IS SELECTED FOR THE NORTH REGION WHERE HEALTH NET FEDERAL SERVICES IS THE CURRENT CONTRACTOR. UNITEDHEALTH MILITARY AND VETERANS SERVICES IS SELECTED FOR THE SOUTH REGION WHERE HUMANA MILITARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES IS THE CURRENT CONTRACTOR.

STATES INCLUDED IN EACH REGION AND OTHER CONTRACT INFORMATION IS ON A SPECIAL WEB PAGE AT **WWW.TRICARE.MIL/T3CONTRACTS**.

THE THREE-REGION STRUCTURE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ALL OF THE TRICARE BENEFIT OPTIONS OFFERED UNDER THE CURRENT CONTRACTS REMAIN THE SAME.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA ANNMARIE FELICIO.

NEXT, TRICARE LAUNCHES A WEB-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. TIME AND DISTANCE WILL NO LONGER BE OBSTACLES FOR TRICARE BENEFICIARIES SEEKING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TRICARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, OR TRIAP. TRIAP USES EVOLVING TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO BRING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MOST. TRIAP IS SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH ON AUG. 1 AS A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

FROM THE SECURITY OF THEIR HOMES, OR ANYWHERE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER, BENEFICIARIES WITH A COMPUTER, WEBCAM AND THE ASSOCIATED SOFTWARE CAN SPEAK "FACE-

TO-FACE” WITH A LICENSED TRIAP COUNSELOR OVER THE INTERNET AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT.

TRIAP AUGMENTS TRICARE’S MANY EXISTING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE BENEFITS, AND IS ACCESSIBLE TO ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES SEEKING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE WILL HAVE ANOTHER AVENUE TO GET THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED, WHEN IT’S NEEDED.

TRIAP WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS, THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR TAMP, THE TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE WITH TRICARE RESERVE SELECT.

BENEFICIARIES CAN USE TRIAP’S SERVICES AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF TIMES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND COUNSELING.

AND FINALLY, LORRAINE CWIEKA EXPLAINS THE CONTINUED HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PROGRAM.

THE CONTINUED HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PROGRAM, ALSO KNOWN AS CHCBP, IS A PREMIUM-BASED HEALTH CARE PROGRAM CURRENTLY ADMINISTERED BY HUMANA MILITARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES. THE CONTINUED HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PROGRAM OFFERS TRANSITIONAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR 18 TO 36 MONTHS, AFTER TRICARE ELIGIBILITY ENDS. IF YOU QUALIFY, YOU CAN PURCHASE CHCBP WITHIN 60 DAYS OF LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR REGULAR TRICARE OR COVERAGE UNDER TAMP, THE TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

CHCBP ACTS AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN MILITARY HEALTH BENEFITS AND YOUR NEW CIVILIAN HEALTH PLAN. BENEFITS ARE COMPARABLE TO TRICARE STANDARD. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE IS THAT YOU PAY PREMIUMS TO PARTICIPATE. THE PREMIUMS FOR THIS COVERAGE ARE \$933 PER QUARTER FOR INDIVIDUALS AND \$1,996 PER QUARTER FOR FAMILIES.

UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES INCLUDE PEOPLE RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY AND THEIR

ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS; UNREARRIED FORMER SPOUSES WHO WERE ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE ON THE DAY BEFORE THE DATE OF THE FINAL DECREE OF DIVORCE, DISSOLUTION OR ANNULMENT; CHILDREN WHO NO LONGER MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS, AND SOME UNMARRIED CHILDREN BY ADOPTION OR LEGAL CUSTODY.

YOU CAN GET DETAILS FROM YOUR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)