

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 08 - 720 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 REQUIRES DRIVE-TIME WAIVERS. HERE IS LORRAINE CWIEKA WITH THE STORY.

TRICARE PRIME BENEFICIARIES WHO LIVE OVER 30 MINUTES AWAY FROM THE MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY OR MTF WHERE THEY ARE ENROLLED SHOULD BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR A LETTER FROM THEIR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR.

THE LETTERS EXPLAIN THAT BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009, NON-ACTIVE DUTY TRICARE PRIME BENEFICIARIES IN THE 50 UNITED STATES WHO LIVE MORE THAN A 30-MINUTE DRIVE FROM THE

MTF WHERE THEY ARE ENROLLED, MUST WAIVE TRICARE'S ACCESS-TO-CARE DRIVE-TIME STANDARDS TO REMAIN ENROLLED TO THAT MTF.

TRICARE IS COMMITTED TO DELIVERING THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE TO ITS BENEFICIARIES, AND THIS REQUIRES ACCESS TO CARE WHEN NEEDED.

TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE, A PCM SHOULD BE LOCATED WITHIN A 30-MINUTE DRIVE OF A BENEFICIARY'S RESIDENCE. TO WAIVE THE DRIVE-TIME STANDARD AND ENROLL AT A MILITARY HOSPITAL OR CLINIC, BENEFICIARIES CAN USE THE BENEFICIARY WEB ENROLLMENT WEB SITE TO CONFIRM THEIR WAIVER.

IF THE WAIVER IS APPROVED FOR BENEFICIARIES RESIDING LESS THAN 100 MILES FROM THE MTF, IT REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL THE BENEFICIARY CHANGES RESIDENCY LOCATION. IF A WAIVER IS APPROVED FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO RESIDE MORE THAN 100 MILES FROM AN MTF, IT WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT

THROUGH THE BENEFICIARY'S CURRENT ENROLLMENT PERIOD,
AS LONG AS THEY DON'T CHANGE RESIDENCES.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TRICARE PLANS PLEASE VISIT

[HTTP://TRICARE.MIL/MYBENEFIT](http://TRICARE.MIL/MYBENEFIT).

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA.

NEXT, WHAT IS TRICARE?

TRICARE IS THE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM SERVING ACTIVE
DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE
MEMBERS, RETIREES, THEIR FAMILIES, SURVIVORS AND
CERTAIN FORMER SPOUSES WORLDWIDE.

AS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM,
TRICARE BRINGS TOGETHER THE HEALTH CARE RESOURCES OF
THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND SUPPLEMENTS THEM WITH
NETWORKS OF CIVILIAN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS,
INSTITUTIONS, PHARMACIES AND SUPPLIERS TO PROVIDE
ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES WHILE

MAINTAINING THE CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT MILITARY OPERATIONS.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE BENEFITS, YOU MUST BE REGISTERED IN THE DEFENSE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY REPORTING SYSTEM. TRICARE OFFERS SEVERAL HEALTH PLAN OPTIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS BENEFICIARY POPULATION. ADDITIONALLY, TRICARE OFFERS TWO DENTAL PLANS AND SEVERAL ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS.

WORLDWIDE, TRICARE HAS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 MILLION ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES, 59 MILITARY HOSPITALS, 413 CLINICS AND 413 DENTAL CLINICS.

OUR MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND OUR NATION'S SECURITY BY PROVIDING HEALTH SUPPORT FOR THE FULL RANGE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AND SUSTAINING THE HEALTH OF ALL THOSE ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE.

OUR VISION IS TO BE A WORLD-CLASS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS THE MILITARY MISSION BY FOSTERING, PROTECTING, SUSTAINING AND RESTORING HEALTH. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRICARE PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://TRICARE.MIL](http://TRICARE.MIL).

AND FINALLY, LORRAINE CWIEKA TELLS US TO UPDATE OUR DEERS RECORDS IF THE FAMILY SIZE IS CHANGING.

FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD ARE CONSTANTLY GROWING AND CHANGING AND THIS INCLUDES MILITARY FAMILIES.

THERE ARE BLENDED FAMILIES; WHERE ONE OR BOTH PARTNERS HAVE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE AND MAY HAVE CHILDREN FROM THEIR PREVIOUS MARRIAGES. AND SOME FAMILIES GROW BY ADOPTING CHILDREN.

TRICARE REMINDS SPONSORS TO ENROLL ADOPTED OR STEPCHILDREN IN THE DEFENSE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY REPORTING SYSTEM OR DEERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE CHILDREN CAN RECEIVE TRICARE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS.

STEPCHILDREN WHO ARE NOT ADOPTED BY THE SPONSOR ARE COVERED BY TRICARE AS LONG AS THE SPONSOR AND THE MOTHER OR FATHER OF THE STEPCHILDREN STAY MARRIED. BUT IF THE COUPLE DIVORCE AND THE CHILDREN WERE NOT ADOPTED BY THE SPONSOR, THEIR TRICARE ELIGIBILITY ENDS ON THE DATE THE DIVORCE IS FINAL.

IF THE SPONSOR ADOPTED THE STEPCHILDREN, BUT THE COUPLE GETS A DIVORCE, THE CHILDREN REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR TRICARE BENEFITS WITHIN THE NORMAL LIMITS. THE LIMITS ARE UNMARRIED UP TO THE AGE OF 21, UNMARRIED UP TO THE AGE OF 23 IF THE STEPCHILD IS ENROLLED IN A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY FULL TIME AND THE SPONSOR PROVIDES 50 PERCENT OF THE CHILD'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO ENROLL CHILDREN IN DEERS TO ENSURE TRICARE ELIGIBILITY, GO TO [HTTP://WWW.TRICARE.MIL/MYBENEFIT](http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit) 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)