

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 26 – 605 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 THAT THE MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM WILL HOST AN H1N1 WEB HALL.

THE MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM IS HOSTING A ONE-HOUR WEB-BASED TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, NOV. 10 AT 3 P.M. EASTERN TIME TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA. DURING THE WEB HALL, EXPERTS WILL ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE FLU AND VACCINE. A TRANSCRIPT OF ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE POSTED AT [HEALTH.MIL/FLU](http://HEALTH.MIL/FLU) AFTER THE EVENT.

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS FROM THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR

FORCE; THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION AND READINESS; THE MILITARY VACCINE AGENCY; TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY AND THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE WEB HALL TO PROVIDE ACCURATE, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE H1N1 FLU AND VACCINE.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE WEB HALL ARE ASKED TO LIMIT QUESTIONS TO H1N1 FLU-RELATED TOPICS AND TO REFRAIN FROM DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFORMATION TO PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WEB HALL, VISIT: [HEALTH.MIL/FLU](http://HEALTH.MIL/FLU).

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE FELICIO.

----

NEXT, LORRAINE CWIEKA REPORTS ON THE TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY'S INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TRICARE PHARMACY CONTRACT.

THE NEW TRICARE PHARMACY PROGRAM COMBINES THE MAIL ORDER AND RETAIL PHARMACY CONTRACTS AND WILL PROVIDE NEW ENHANCEMENTS TO TRICARE BENEFICIARIES.

THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRICARE PHARMACY PROGRAM INCLUDE THE SPECIALTY MEDICATION CARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN THE MAIL-ORDER PHARMACY; EXPANSION OF THE MEMBER CHOICE CENTER PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO HELP BENEFICIARIES TO SWITCH THEIR RETAIL PRESCRIPTIONS TO MAIL-ORDER; AND A SINGLE CALL CENTER PHONE NUMBER: 1-877-363-1303.

THE SPECIALTY MEDICATION CARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS FOR BENEFICIARIES USING THE MAIL-ORDER PHARMACY FOR THEIR SPECIALTY MEDICATIONS. IT IS STRUCTURED TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH THROUGH CONTINUOUS HEALTH EVALUATION, ONGOING MONITORING, ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATION NEEDS, AND MANAGEMENT OF MEDICATION USE.

BENEFICIARIES DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING TO GET THESE BENEFITS. NO CALLS, NO PAPERWORK, AND NO ONE HAS TO RE-ENROLL. ALL CO-PAYS STAY THE SAME AND THE NETWORK REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. WE HAVE ACTUALLY ADDED PHARMACIES TO THE NETWORK.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS, INC. WAS SELECTED TO PROVIDE MAIL-ORDER, RETAIL AND SPECIALTY PHARMACY SERVICES FOR THE TRICARE PHARMACY PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO OUR 9.5 MILLION BENEFICIARIES.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS CURRENTLY HANDLES MILLIONS OF PRESCRIPTIONS EACH YEAR THROUGH MAIL-ORDER AND RETAIL PHARMACIES.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA.

-----

AND FINALLY, TRICARE EXTENDS ITS OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT, AS ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS.

TRICARE'S OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT HAS BEEN EXTENDED. THE PROGRAM ALLOWS TRICARE BENEFICIARIES TO SUBSTITUTE OVER-THE-COUNTER OR OTC VERSIONS OF CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

THE OTC PROGRAM WAS SCHEDULED TO END NOV. 4, 2009, AS TRICARE'S NEW PHARMACY CONTRACT STARTS. UNDER THE NEW CONTRACT, BENEFICIARIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION WILL NEED TO PAY A \$3 COPAYMENT WHILE THE NEW PROGRAM IS UNDER REVIEW. THE PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY DID NOT REQUIRE ANY COPAYMENT.

TRICARE HOPES BENEFICIARIES WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE PROGRAM, AS THE \$3 COPAY REMAINS FAR BELOW THE AVERAGE OUT-OF-POCKET PRICE OF APPROXIMATELY \$15 FOR THESE PRODUCTS IF THEY WERE NOT COVERED BY TRICARE.

EXAMPLES OF OTC MEDICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PROGRAM INCLUDE THE ALLERGY MEDICATIONS CETIRIZINE AND LORATADINE, AND HEARTBURN MEDICATIONS PRILOSEC OTC AND ITS GENERIC FORM OMEPRAZOLE.

AS BEFORE, BENEFICIARIES NEED A PRESCRIPTION FROM THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FOR THE OTC DRUG TO GET THEM FOR \$3.

FOR 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)