

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – JUNE 24, 2010 - 598 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: LORRAINE CWIEKA REPORTS ON A NEW PREAUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE TRICARE BENEFICIARIES.

SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES WILL NOW HAVE TO PREAUTHORIZE CARE PROVIDED TO MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE TRICARE BENEFICIARIES ONCE MEDICARE BENEFITS ARE EXHAUSTED AND TRICARE BECOMES THE PRIMARY HEALTH COVERAGE.

PREAUTHORIZATION IS ONLY REQUIRED FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY CARE WHEN MEDICALLY-NECESSARY SKILLED

NURSING SERVICES EXTEND BEYOND MEDICARE'S 100-DAY LIMIT AND TRICARE BECOMES THE PRIMARY PAYER FOR A BENEFICIARY.

MEDICARE AND TRICARE COVER MEDICALLY-NECESSARY SKILLED NURSING CARE AND REHABILITATIVE THERAPIES, INCLUDING ROOM AND BOARD, PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION AND LABORATORY WORK, WHICH ARE PROVIDED IN THE SKILLED NURSING FACILITY. HOWEVER, MEDICARE COVERS ONLY THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITY CARE, WHILE TRICARE FOR LIFE COVERS TREATMENT AS LONG AS IT IS MEDICALLY NECESSARY AND IS A TRICARE COVERED SERVICE.

FOR SKILLED NURSING CARE BENEFITS TO BE COVERED, THE FACILITY MUST BE MEDICARE-CERTIFIED AND ENTER INTO A PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH TRICARE. BENEFICIARIES MUST HAVE A QUALIFYING HOSPITAL STAY OF AT LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, NOT INCLUDING THE DAY OF DISCHARGE. BENEFICIARIES MUST ALSO ENTER THE SKILLED NURSING FACILITY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF BEING DISCHARGED FROM THE

HOSPITAL AND THE CARE MUST MEET TRICARE MEDICAL
NECESSITY GUIDELINES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SKILLED NURSING FACILITY
COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE, VISIT TRICARE.MIL/MYBENEFIT.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA.

NEXT, ANNEMARIE FELICIO REPORTS ON THE EXCEPTIONAL
FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM.

UNDER TRICARE, AN EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER IS
DEFINED AS AN AUTHORIZED FAMILY MEMBER RESIDING WITH
THE SPONSOR WHO MAY REQUIRE SPECIAL MEDICAL OR
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BASED ON A DIAGNOSED PHYSICAL,
INTELLECTUAL, OR EMOTIONAL HANDICAP. AN AUTHORIZED
FAMILY MEMBER MAY BE A SPOUSE, CHILD, STEPCHILD,
ADOPTED CHILD, OR FOSTER CHILD AND THEIR DISABILITIES
MAY RANGE FROM MILD TO SEVERE.

TRICARE'S EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM, OR EFMP, HELPS IDENTIFY THOSE FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL MEDICAL AND/OR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, DOCUMENTS REQUIRED SERVICES, AND INVOLVES PERSONNEL, MEDICAL COMMANDS, AND THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM NECESSARY TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

ENROLLING IN TRICARE'S EFMP ALSO HELPS ENSURE MILITARY FAMILIES GET STATIONED IN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHERE THE FAMILY MEMBERS' NEEDS CAN BE MET. THIS PROGRAM IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN SCREENING OR APPROVING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR ACCOMPANIED TRAVEL TO OVERSEAS LOCATIONS.

ENROLLMENT IN EFMP IS MANDATORY UPON IDENTIFICATION OF AN ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBER WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. THE SPONSOR, OR AUTHORIZED PERSON ACTING ON THE SPONSOR'S BEHALF, MUST ENROLL THE QUALIFIED FAMILY MEMBER IN EFMP. EACH SERVICE BRANCH HAS ITS OWN EFMP

AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS. UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES,
THIS REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EFMP, CONTACT YOUR SERVICE
BRANCH'S EFMP REPRESENTATIVE OR VISIT TRICARE.MIL.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNMARIE FELICIO.

WHEN IT COMES TO BEATING THE HEAT, NOTHING SAYS "COOL
DOWN" QUITE LIKE GOING FOR A SWIM, BOAT RIDE OR
RELAXING ON THE BEACH. WHILE IT MAY SOUND LIKE A GOOD
IDEA TO GRAB A FEW "COLD ONES" FOR YOUR TRIP, ALCOHOL
AND WATER ACTIVITIES DON'T MIX. THEY CAN LEAD TO
RECKLESS BEHAVIOR AND DEADLY RESULTS.

RESPONSIBLE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IS ONE OF THE EASIEST
LIFESTYLE DECISIONS TRICARE BENEFICIARIES CAN MAKE TO
MAINTAIN A QUALITY LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR

FAMILY MEMBERS.

TAKING BEER TO THE BEACH IS A FAVORITE PAST-TIME. MANY THINK THEY ARE “PLAYING IT SAFE” BECAUSE BEER IS LESS INTOXICATING THAN OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. NOT SO. ONE 12 OUNCE BEER CONTAINS THE SAME AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL AS 5 OUNCES OF WINE OR 1.5 OUNCES OF 80-PROOF LIQUOR.

ALCOHOL INFLUENCES BALANCE, COORDINATION AND JUDGMENT. ITS EFFECTS ARE HEIGHTENED BY SUN EXPOSURE AND HEAT. TO PREVENT WATER-RELATED INJURIES, THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL RECOMMENDS AVOIDING ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION BEFORE OR DURING SWIMMING, BOATING, FISHING OR ANY OTHER WATER ACTIVITY. ALSO, DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL WHILE SUPERVISING CHILDREN DURING WATER ACTIVITIES.

REMEMBER, WHENEVER VISITING THE BEACH OR ANY SWIMMING POOL THIS SUMMER, MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY BY

EXCLUDING ALCOHOL FROM THE FUN.

GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING RESPONSIBLY AT
TRICARE.MIL/ALCOHOLWARENESS.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)