

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – JULY 1, 2010 - 577 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 FINDING MEDICATION INFORMATION FAST WITH THE NEW TRICARE FORMULARY SEARCH TOOL

BENEFICIARIES AND PROVIDERS CAN USE THE NEW TRICARE FORMULARY SEARCH TOOL TO FIND THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.

THE NEW FORMULARY SEARCH TOOL ALLOWS BENEFICIARIES TO EASILY FIND WHICH MEDICINES ARE IN THE UNIFORM FORMULARY. THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL FULL-SERVICE MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES AND COVERED BY TRICARE.

ONCE A USER HAS IDENTIFIED IF A DRUG IS AVAILABLE, THEY CAN USE THE SEARCH TOOL TO GET INFORMATION ON A DRUG, SUCH AS RESTRICTION ON USE. THE TOOL ALSO SHOWS IF THE MEDICATION IS TIER ONE—WITH A \$3 COPAY, TIER TWO— WITH A \$9 COPAY OR NON-FORMULARY—REQUIRING A \$22 COPAY.) IT ALSO SHOWS WHEN A GENERIC EQUIVALENT IS REQUIRED.

AS AN ADDED BENEFIT, THE NEW TRICARE FORMULARY SEARCH TOOL HAS INTEGRATED THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION AND MEDICAL NECESSITY FORMS AND CRITERIA INTO A SEARCH ENGINE WHILE STILL MAINTAINING A PAGE WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL CRITERIA AND FORMS. ANY RESTRICTIONS SUCH AS QUANTITY OR AGE LIMITS ARE DISPLAYED IN ONE LOCATION.

VISIT TRICARE.MIL/UNIFORMFORMULARY AND CLICK ON THE “FORMULARY SEARCH TOOL” LINK TO ACCESS THE NEW SEARCH TOOL.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE
FELICIO.

NEXT, LORRAINE CWIEKA REPORTS ON TRICARE'S EXTENDED
CARE HEALTH OPTION.

IF A FAMILY MEMBER HAS SPECIAL NEEDS, A SERIOUS ILLNESS
OR SUSTAINS A SERIOUS INJURY, TRICARE CAN HELP. THE
TRICARE EXTENDED CARE HEALTH OPTION, OR ECHO, PROVIDES
ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBERS WITH
PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITIES. ECHO COVERS UP TO
\$36,000 PER FISCAL YEAR IN ADDITION TO REGULAR TRICARE
BENEFITS TO COVER CLAIMS FOR CARE OF A DISABLED FAMILY
MEMBER.

SOME OF THE SERVICES ECHO CAN BE USED FOR INCLUDE:
TRAINING, REHABILITATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION,
INSTITUTIONAL CARE AND, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES,
TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM INSTITUTIONS OR FACILITIES.

THIS BENEFIT ALSO INCLUDES ECHO HOME HEALTH CARE, WHICH PROVIDES SKILLED NURSING CARE AND OTHER SERVICES FOR SEVERELY DISABLED BENEFICIARIES AND RESPITE CARE FOR THEIR CAREGIVERS.

IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ECHO, THE SPONSOR MUST BE AN ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER AND THE FAMILY MEMBER MUST HAVE A SPECIFIC PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY.

ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES MUST BE ENROLLED IN THE SPONSOR'S SERVICE BRANCH EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM AND BE REGISTERED WITH THEIR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR. IF A BENEFICIARY OR THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BELIEVES A CHILD IS QUALIFIED FOR ECHO, HE OR SHE CAN CONTACT A CASE MANAGER OR THEIR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION. IF OVERSEAS, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY OR TRICARE AREA OFFICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ECHO, VISIT TRICARE.MIL/ECHO.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA.

AS MANY AS 400,000 PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION, OR PCS, MOVES COULD OCCUR IN 2010. ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO HEAD TO THE WEB WHEN TRANSFERRING TO A NEW DUTY STATION.

IN A RECENT MEMORANDUM, DR. CHARLES RICE, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS, ASKED THAT PCS ORDERS INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT TRANSFERRING TRICARE ENROLLMENT ONLINE TO EASE THE PCS PROCESS FOR FAMILIES AND ENSURE CONTINUITY OF HEALTH CARE.

DEPENDING ON BENEFICIARY STATUS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BENEFICIARY WEB ENROLLMENT WEBSITE MAY ALLOW ENROLLMENT CHANGES, CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES AND MORE THROUGH ONE OF THREE LOG ON METHODS: COMMON ACCESS CARD, "MYPAY" PIN, OR DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT SELF SERVICE LOGON.

BENEFICIARY WEB ENROLLMENT IS ONLY AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS SHOULD CONTACT THEIR NEW MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY CAN MAKE CHANGES THROUGH THE WEB, OR SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THEY REACH THEIR NEW DUTY STATION.

TRICARE BENEFICIARIES CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FEATURES OF BENEFICIARY WEB ENROLLMENT AND GAIN ACCESS TO THE WEBSITE THROUGH THE LINKS AT TRICARE.MIL/BWE.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)