

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – JULY 29, 2010 – 545 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 AN UPCOMING MAILING TO TRICARE BENEFICIARIES LIVING OVERSEAS.

TRICARE BENEFICIARIES LIVING OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES WILL SOON BEGIN RECEIVING LETTERS UPDATING THEM ON THE TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM CONTRACT THAT BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2010. BENEFICIARIES WILL RECEIVE THE LETTER ONLY IF THEIR DEFENSE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY REPORTING SYSTEM OR DEERS ADDRESS IS UP-TO-DATE.

CURRENT OVERSEAS ENROLLMENTS IN TRICARE PRIME, TRICARE GLOBAL REMOTE OVERSEAS AND TRICARE PUERTO

RICO PRIME WILL BE MAINTAINED UNDER THE NEW CONTRACT. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANYONE TO RE-ENROLL. IN ADDITION TO NEW CONTRACT INFORMATION, THE LETTER WILL INCLUDE AN UPDATED ENROLLMENT CARD AND A TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM TRANSITION FLYER.

LETTERS WILL ALSO BE SENT TO TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM STANDARD USERS, BASED ON THEIR DEERS ADDRESS. THE LETTER WILL INFORM THEM ON HOW TO ACCESS SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM UNDER THE NEW CONTRACT. IT WILL ALSO CONTAIN A WALLET CARD WITH CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUPPORT CONTACTS.

ALL TRICARE BENEFICIARIES RESIDING OVERSEAS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR DEERS ADDRESS IS CURRENT SO THEY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT TRICARE INFORMATION. DEERS ADDRESSES CAN BE UPDATED USING SEVERAL METHODS INCLUDING MAIL, IN PERSON AT A LOCAL CARD-ISSUING FACILITY AND ONLINE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON

UPDATING DEERS RECORDS IS AVAILABLE AT
TRICARE.MIL/DEERS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRICARE OVERSEAS
PROGRAM CONTRACT, BENEFICIARIES CAN GO TO
TRICARE.MIL/TOPCONTRACT.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M LORRAINE CWIEKA

IF YOU ARE COVERED UNDER TRICARE PRIME, THERE ARE TIMES
WHEN YOU WILL NEED TO SEE A SPECIALIST FOR A DIAGNOSIS
OR TREATMENT THAT YOUR PRIMARY CARE MANAGER OR PCM
CANNOT PROVIDE. YOUR PCM WILL PROVIDE REFERRALS TO
ACCESS SERVICES FROM SPECIALTY PROVIDERS AND WILL
COORDINATE THE REFERRAL REQUEST WITH YOUR REGIONAL
CONTRACTOR.

IF YOU LIVE NEAR A MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY OR MTF
AND ARE REFERRED FOR SPECIALTY CARE, YOUR REGIONAL

CONTRACTOR WILL ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE YOUR CARE AT THE MTF FIRST. WHEN THE SERVICES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE MTF, THE CARE WILL BE COORDINATED WITH A TRICARE NETWORK PROVIDER.

VISIT YOUR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR'S WEB SITE OR CALL THEIR TOLL-FREE NUMBER TO LEARN ABOUT REGION-SPECIFIC REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS AND FOR DETAILS ABOUT OBTAINING REFERRALS.

IF YOUR PCM REFERS YOU TO A SPECIALIST WHO WOULD LIKE TO REFER YOU TO ANOTHER SPECIALIST, THE SPECIALIST WILL NEED TO CONTACT YOUR PCM. YOUR PCM OR THE SPECIALIST WILL CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL CONTRACTOR TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIALTY CARE, WHEN NECESSARY.

IF YOU RECEIVE SPECIALTY CARE WITHOUT A REFERRAL FROM YOUR PRIMARY CARE MANAGER, YOU WILL BE USING THE

POINT OF SERVICE OPTION, RESULTING IN HIGHER OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REFERRALS FOR SPECIALTY CARE, VISIT TRICARE.MIL/MYBENEFIT.

FINALLY, ANNEMARIE FELICIO REMINDS US THAT GENERIC MEDICATIONS HELP BENEFICIARIES AND TRICARE SAVE MONEY.

TRICARE AND ITS PHARMACY BENEFIT CONTRACTOR - EXPRESS SCRIPTS, INC. - WORK TOGETHER TO PROMOTE A HIGH QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE PHARMACY BENEFIT. A KEY FACTOR IN MAKING THIS BENEFIT A SUCCESS IS THE MANDATORY GENERIC DRUG PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN IN PLACE FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS.

IT IS TRICARE POLICY TO USE GENERIC MEDICATIONS INSTEAD OF BRAND NAME MEDICATIONS, WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IF THERE IS NO GENERIC EQUIVALENT DRUG, THE BRAND NAME DRUG

WILL BE DISPENSED AT THE BRAND NAME COST. CURRENTLY,
BRAND NAME DRUGS THAT HAVE A GENERIC EQUIVALENT MAY
ONLY BE DISPENSED IF THERE IS CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR
THE USE OF THE BRAND NAME DRUG IN PLACE OF THE GENERIC
EQUIVALENT. THIS POLICY SAVES YOU MONEY, AND HELPS US
SUSTAIN YOUR PHARMACY BENEFIT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRICARE PHARMACY
PROGRAM, VISIT EXPRESS-SCRIPTS.COM/TRICARE.

FOR TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY, I'M ANNEMARIE
FELICIO.

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

TAIL MUSIC (:03)