

TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN – MARCH 25

LEAD MUSIC (:03)

THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN FOCUSED ON OUR BENEFICIARIES RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES FROM JAPAN. I'M AUSTIN CAMACHO

EVEN BEFORE TRICARE BENEFICIARIES LANDED IN THE UNITED STATES AFTER HURRIEDLY LEAVING JAPAN, TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY AND MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM PERSONNEL WERE IN PLACE TO HELP EASE THEIR UNEXPECTED RETURN STATESIDE. REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTINE HUNTER, TRICARE'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXPRESSED HER FEELINGS FOR ALL INVOLVED. (:29)

0:19 "Our sympathies at TRICARE go out to everybody who's affected by this crisis: the people of Japan, military and government personnel living and working over there, and all the people who have gone to Japan to assist. Our hearts and minds are with them. Many of our military families have participated in the voluntary departure, so many are returning to shelter with family members because they've been offered the opportunity to leave and go back when the situation's more stable. (:52)

ONE OF TRICARE'S MAJOR ROLES IN THIS EFFORT IS TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE GET THE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE. (:07)

1:03 – All of our hospitals and clinics are open in Japan, so for those people who have stayed, they can still get military healthcare and if they're receiving medications through the mail order pharmacy they're being delivered over there and appointments are being made out in the Japanese community when those are necessary. (:20)

ADMIRAL HUNTER STRESSES THAT NO ONE SHOULD FAIL TO GET EMERGENCY CARE. (:05)

1:25 If there's an emergency anywhere, be it in Japan or be it someone who has returned under the voluntary departure, we want people to get emergency care at the closest facility. TRICARE always takes care of that. Once the emergency is over we'd like you to call us to let us know you've had an emergency. Either way we'll get the claim and it'll be paid (:21)

ROUTINE CARE IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR ALL BENEFICIARIES. (:04)

2:00 for routine care people who are still in Japan can still have routine followup appointments and those who have returned depending upon where they're going they can make arrangements either with their local military treatment facility – so all of our military treatment facilities across the continental United States have done what we call leaning forward in the military – to the greatest extent possible they're going to embrace these people and get them in to be seen for routine care. For those who are going to live with family or stay with family in an area where we don't have a military treatment facility we will help them arrange care in the community. (:38)

OKINAWA HOSTS THE FRIENDS OF THE STORK'S NEST, WHICH PROVIDES FREE, TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR OFF-ISLAND, HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY PATIENTS JUST ONE BLOCK FROM OKINAWA'S NAVAL HOSPITAL. THIS IS GOOD NEWS, BECAUSE

MORE THAN 300 PREGNANT BENEFICIARIES WERE AMONG
THOSE LEAVING JAPAN. (:18)

2:49 Those who are in the more advanced stage went down to Okinawa and will be using the Stork's Nest capability there. But for those who are in early pregnancy, as you know most pregnant women have a visit with their doctor or provider once a month or maybe more often and we want them to get that care we don't want them to omit those pre-natal care visits. So if they're close to a military treatment facility it will assist them in getting care. Otherwise they should call our stateside TRICARE overseas prime assistance line. That's run by International SOS who's our overseas contract partner. (:36)

THAT TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND ALL OF THIS INFORMATION, IS
ON OUR TRICARE.MIL WEBSITE. (:10)

3:39 – If you go to TRICARE.MIL/tsunami a page will come up that talks about all of these situations and gives all these phone numbers but we do have an assistance line and will arrange routine care in the community for those people who need ongoing care. (:15)

AND THAT'S TODAY'S TRICARE BENEFICIARY BULLETIN.

WE'LL HAVE MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE NEXT WEEK. (:03)

TAIL MUSIC (:03)