



OCT 22 2001

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER & RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER & RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER & RESERVE AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: TRICARE Benefits for Activated Reservists and their Family Members

The activation of members and units of the Reserve Components, in response to the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, increases the need to educate activated reservists and their family members on their TRICARE medical and dental benefits. This memorandum reiterates existing DoD policy and establishes new policy for the current reserve activation. These policies apply to Reserve Component and National Guard members ordered to duty in support of operations that result from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This includes such duty under Executive Order 13223, 10 U.S.C. 12302, 10 U.S.C. 12301(d), or 32 U.S.C. 502(f). Such operations include for example, ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE.

Medical Benefits

Activated Reservists. The activated reservists are considered Prime enrollees upon activation with equivalent priorities for care as all other active duty service members. In most cases, activated reservists will receive their care from military medical personnel. MTF commanders should work with their regional TRICARE contractors, where appropriate, to properly enroll activated reservists in TRICARE Prime.

Reservist Family Members. If the military sponsor is called to active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days, spouses and eligible children of reservists become eligible for TRICARE Extra and Standard on the first day of the military sponsor's active duty.

If the military sponsor is called to active duty for 179 days or more, family members may enroll in TRICARE Prime, effective on the first day of the military sponsor's active duty.

TRICARE Prime is the most comprehensive and least costly benefit for active duty families, as there are no enrollment fees or copays in the TRICARE Prime network. Nonetheless, some reserve families may want to continue their relationships with providers who are not in the TRICARE Prime network. In these cases, enrolling in TRICARE Prime may not be the best choice—and beneficiaries may understandably elect to remain in TRICARE Standard. As outlined below, we are taking steps to reduce the financial burden on families and support continuity of care.