THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D C 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MAR 1 5 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF/MR)
DIRECTOR, RESERVE AND TRAINING, USCG

SUBJECT: Reserve Transitional Assistance Management Program

Under a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Yeai 2004 and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004, TRICARE eligibility for certain active duty and Reserve Component members separating from active duty service is temporarily extended under the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) from 60 or 120 to 180 days. This is the first of three temporary programs the Department of Defense is implementing this spring under its 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program to enhance access to care for Reserve Component families.

This extended TAMP benefit period applies to members separated from active duty on or after November 6, 2003 However, the extended benefit period will not continue after December 31, 2004, unless this program is extended by Congress

Eligibility for TAMP remains the same during this period The sponsor's Service branch is responsible for determining TAMP eligibility for sponsors separating from active duty service and their family members. Eligible sponsors and their family members also must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)

Former active duty sponsors and family members eligible for TAMP may enroll in TRICARE Prime in locations where TRICARE Prime is available Sponsors and family members who were already enrolled in TRICARE Prime prior to the sponsor's separation from active duty status may continue their enrollment in TRICARE Prime with no break in coverage by submitting an enrollment application to their TRICARE regional managed care support contractor. Eligible sponsors and their family members are not eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote under TAMP One of the other TRICARE options, Standard or Extra, must be selected during this transitional period Those eligible for benefits under

other existing Demonstration Projects retain those benefits during their TAMP eligibility as long as the Demonstration is active.

All claims for TAMP eligible sponsors and family members are processed by TRICARE at the active duty family member rate Normal TRICARE claims processing procedures will apply Claims denied for loss of eligibility will be denied until information is updated to show eligibility in DEERS. If the sponsor has or resumes other health insurance upon separation, TRICARE will be second payer to the other health insurance.

Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve members and/or their family members may be eligible for dental coverage under the TRICARE Dental Plan (TDP). The TDP requires a minimum 12-month enrollment period, however, that commitment is waived for families of reservists called to active duty for certain contingency operations when the family member is enrolled within 30 days of the sponsor's activation date Sponsors eligible for TAMP may receive dental care at military dental treatment facilities on a space-available basis Family members participating in the TDP are not eligible for space available dental care at these facilities.

Active duty and Reserve Component sponsors separating from active duty who need to verify eligibility for transitional benefits for themselves and family members should be encouraged to contact their nearest Service personnel office for assistance. DEERS eligibility may be verified by contacting the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll-free at (800) 538-9552 Assistance with understanding TRICARE benefits or claim processing is available from regional TRICARE Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinators. My point of contact for additional information is Ms Cheryl Kaminska who may be reached at 703-681-0039

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