

CHAPTER 8
SECTION 3.1

PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PFPWD):
GENERAL

Issue Date: July 3, 1997

Authority: [32 CFR 199.5](#)

I. POLICY

A. This PFPWD provides financial assistance for certain TRICARE beneficiaries who are moderately or severely mentally retarded, or seriously physically disabled. The PFPWD is not intended to be a stand alone benefit. See also [Chapter 13, Section 21.1](#).

B. The primary purpose of the PFPWD is to assist in reducing the disabling effects of a PFPWD qualifying condition.

II. LIMITATIONS

A. PFPWD eligibility is a prerequisite to benefit authorization. See [Chapter 12, Section 9.1](#).

B. All PFPWD diagnostic procedures require written authorization as a prerequisite to claim adjudication. See [Chapter 11, Section 9.3](#).

C. PFPWD-eligible beneficiaries who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime shall meet all applicable requirements of that program, including those regarding the assignment and use of a Primary Care Manager, as specified in [Chapter 12, Section 9.1](#).

D. The beneficiary (or sponsor or legal guardian acting on behalf of the beneficiary) may elect to use the provisions of the Basic Program or the PFPWD for services or items that are allowable by both programs, however, the authorized service or item may not be provided concurrently by both programs. Likewise, a benefit authorized under PFPWD shall not be cost-shared under the Basic Program during the PFPWD authorization period, which is defined as beginning on the date of issuance and continuing for not more than six months.

III. EXCLUSIONS

A. Inpatient acute care for medical or surgical treatment of an acute illness, or of an acute exacerbation of the qualifying condition, is excluded from cost-sharing under PFPWD. These services shall be adjudicated according to Basic Program benefits.

B. Structural alterations to living space and permanent fixtures attached thereto, including alterations necessary to accommodate installation of equipment, or to facilitate entrance or exit, are excluded.

C. Homemaker, sitter, or companion services, except as institutional care or adjunct services, which predominately provide assistance with daily living activities or accomplish household chores or provide companionship or provide supervision or observation, or any combination of these functions, are excluded.

D. Dental care or orthodontic treatment is excluded.

E. Nondomestic travel which originates or terminates outside of a State, as defined in [32 CFR 199.2](#), is excluded.

F. Deluxe travel accommodation price differential between the price for a type of accommodation which provides services or features which exceed the requirements of the beneficiary's condition for safe transport and the price for a type of accommodation without those deluxe features, is excluded.

G. Equipment. Exclusions for durable medical equipment for Basic Program benefits ([32 CFR 199.4\(d\)\(3\)\(ii\)\(D\)](#)) apply to all PFPWD allowable equipment.

H. Medical devices. Prosthetic devices and medical equipment which do not have U.S. Food and Drug Administration required approval for commercial marketing are excluded.

I. No obligation to pay. Services or items for which the beneficiary or sponsor has no legal obligation to pay, or for which no charge would be made if the beneficiary was not eligible for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS, are excluded.

J. Public facility or Federal government. Services or items paid for, or eligible for payment, directly or indirectly by a Public Facility, as defined in [32 CFR 199.2](#), or by the Federal government, other than the Department of Defense, are excluded, except when such services or items are eligible for payment under a State plan for medical assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid).

K. Services for a beneficiary aged 3 to 21 which are written in the beneficiary's special education Individual Educational Plan (IEP) are required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to be provided without charge to the beneficiary by the local education agency public facility and are excluded as a PFPWD benefit as a service available from a public facility.

L. Study, grant, or research programs. Services and items provided as a part of a scientific clinical study, grant, or research program are excluded.

M. Unproven drugs, devices, and medical treatments or procedures. Services and items whose safety and efficacy have not been established as described in [32 CFR 199.4](#), are unproven and cannot be cost-shared.

N. Immediate family or household. Services or items provided or prescribed by a member of the beneficiary's immediate family, or a person living in the beneficiary's or sponsor's household, are excluded.

O. Court or agency ordered care. Services or items ordered by a court or other government agency that are not otherwise a legitimate PFPWD benefit are excluded.

P. Excursions. Additional or special charges for excursions, other than otherwise allowable transportation, are excluded even though part of a program offered by an approved provider.

Q. Drugs and medicines. Drugs and medicines which do not meet the benefit requirements of [32 CFR 199.4](#), are excluded.

R. Therapeutic absences from an inpatient facility are excluded.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Program for Persons with Disabilities is effective October 28, 1997. It replaces the Program for the Handicapped.

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