

CHAPTER 9
SECTION 8.1B

ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 10

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I. ISSUE

Special procedures are required in establishing eligibility and obtaining care for children under 10 years of age.

II. BACKGROUND

This section delineates the special procedures for qualifying family members under 10 years of age in order that they may receive benefits under the program.

III. POLICY

A. Certification and eligibility of children under 10 years of age for health benefits is the responsibility of the active duty member or retired member, accompanying parent, legal guardian, or acting guardian. DD Form 2 (Ret), Form PHS-1633-3 (Ret), DD Form 2 (Act), or Form PHS-1866-1 (Act) are acceptable identification for the purpose of establishing eligibility and obtaining care for a child under 10 years of age. The fact that the word "indefinite" may appear in the space for the expiration date of the member's card does not lessen its acceptability for the identification of the child.

B. On claims submitted for TRICARE/CHAMPUS benefits furnished children under 10 years of age who do not have a DD Form 1173, the applicable data from the spouse's DD Form 1173, or the sponsor's DD Form 2 (Ret), Form PHS-1866-1, Form PHS 1866-3 (Ret), DD Form 2 (Act), or Form PHS-1866-1 (Act) must be recorded in the space entitled "Identification Card" of the appropriate form.

C. Although family members under age 10 normally do not require identification cards of their own, a DD Form 1173 must be obtained by the responsible adult for a family member under age 10 in the following circumstances:

1. The parents are divorced, and the sponsor's ex-spouse has retained custody of the child;
2. The parents (the service member and the spouse) are both deceased, and;

3. The service member is deceased and the widow or widower is remarried to a person whose family members are not eligible for TRICARE/CHAMPUS.

4. The service member is deceased and the surviving parent was divorced from the service member, or

5. The family member was adopted by a non-service family after the death of the service member.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. For additional information regarding eligibility, entitlements and beginning dates of coverage for children under the age of 10 who may qualify as dependent children of certain deceased reservists, see [Chapter 9, Section 10.1C](#).

B. For additional information regarding eligibility, entitlements, and beginning dates of coverage for children under the age of 10 who may qualify as abused dependent children, see [Chapter 9, Section 10.1B](#).

C. For circumstances which may result in a dependent child losing TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility, see [Chapter 9, Section 12.1](#).

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