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TRICARE
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

OD

CHANGE 146
6010.51-M
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

**PUBLICATIONS SYSTEM CHANGE TRANSMITTAL
FOR
TRICARE OPERATIONS MANUAL (TOM), AUGUST 2002**

The TRICARE Management Activity has authorized the following addition(s)/revision(s).

CHANGE TITLE: SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM (SHCP) CHANGES

CONREQ: 15795

PAGE CHANGE(S): See page 2.

SUMMARY OF CHANGE(S): This change allows the use of SHCP funds for the purchase of custom-fitted orthoses for Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) without requiring a waiver, adds provisions of reproductive services for the benefit of seriously ill or injured ADSMs under the SHCP, and adds verbiage to the SHCP chapter to eliminate the claims filing deadline for ADSM claims.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon direction of the Contracting Officer.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon direction of the Contracting Officer.

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**ATTACHMENT(S): 39 PAGES
DISTRIBUTION: 6010.51-M**

WHEN PRESCRIBED ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN, FILE THIS TRANSMITTAL WITH BASIC DOCUMENT.

CHANGE 146
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REMOVE PAGE(S)

CHAPTER 17

Section 4, pages 3 through 5

Addendum B, pages 1 through 3

CHAPTER 18

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CHAPTER 19

Section 3, pages 1 through 9

INSERT PAGE(S)

Section 4, pages 3 through 5

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Section 3, pages 1 through 23

Section 3, pages 1 through 10

2.4.4.4. Since this is care for ADSMs, normal TRICARE coverage limitations do not apply to services rendered for MOA care. As long as a service has been authorized by MMSO, it will be covered regardless of whether it would have ordinarily not been covered under TRICARE policy.

2.4.5. On January 1, 2007, contractors will begin processing claims for care provided on and after this date. Claims for care provided prior to this date, will continue to be reimbursed by either MMSO or the Air Force. After 90 days, all claims -- regardless of the date of service -- will be processed by the contractor. All TED records for this care must include Special Processing Code 17 - VA medical provider claim.

2.4.6. Sixty to ninety days prior to the effective date, the contractor shall meet with MMSO to discuss the transition of claims processing responsibility (this meeting can be by telephone). Items to be discussed include: points of contact (including fax numbers) for authorizations; coordination of a process to forward claims received at the wrong location during the dual processing period; establish points of contact for transition issues; other items deemed necessary to facilitate a successful transition of these claims. The contractor will not be responsible for processing adjustments for any claim previously paid by MMSO or the Services.

2.5. Time Limitations On Filing ADSM Claims

The claims filing deadline outlined in Chapter 8, Section 3, paragraph 1.2., does not apply to any ADSM claims.

3.0. CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT

3.1. For network providers, the contractor shall pay TRICARE Prime Remote medical claims at the CHAMPUS allowable charge or at a lower negotiated rate.

3.2. No deductible, cost-sharing, or copayment amounts shall be applied to ADSM claims.

3.3. If a non-participating provider requires a TPR enrollee to make an "up front" payment for health care services, in order for the enrollee to be reimbursed, the enrollee must submit a claim to the contractor with proof of payment and an explanation of the circumstances. The contractor shall process the claim according to the provisions in this chapter. If the claim is payable without SPOC review the contractor shall allow the billed amount and reimburse the enrollee for the charges on the claim. If the claim requires SPOC review the contractor shall pend the claim to the SPOC for determination. If the SPOC authorizes the care, the contractor shall allow the billed amount and reimburse the enrollee for charges on the claim.

3.4. If the contractor becomes aware that a civilian provider is trying to collect "balance billing" amounts from a TPR enrollee or has initiated collection action for emergency or authorized care, the contractor shall follow contract procedures for notifying the provider that balance billing is prohibited. If the contractor is unable to resolve the situation, the contractor shall pend the file and forward the issue to the SPOC for determination. The SPOC will issue an authorization to the contractor for payments in excess of the applicable

TRICARE payment ceilings provided the SPOC has requested and has been granted a waiver from the Chief Operating Officer (COO), TRICARE Management Activity, or designee.

3.5. If required services are not available from a network or participating provider within the medically appropriate time frame, the contractor shall arrange for care with a non-participating provider subject to the normal reimbursement rules. The contractor initially shall make every effort to obtain the provider's agreement to accept, as payment in full, a rate within the 100% of CMAC limitation. If this is not feasible, the contractor shall make every effort to obtain the provider's agreement to accept, as payment in full, a rate between 100% and 115% of CMAC. If the latter is not feasible, the contractor shall determine the lowest acceptable rate that the provider will accept. The contractor shall then request a waiver of CMAC limitation from the Regional Director, as the designee of the Chief Operating Officer (COO), TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), before patient referral is made to ensure that the patient does not bear any out-of-pocket expense. The waiver request shall include the patient name, TPR location, services requested (CPT-4 codes), CMAC rate, billed charge, and anticipated negotiated rate. The contractor must obtain approval from the Regional Director before the negotiation can be concluded. The contractors shall ensure that the approved payment is annotated in the authorization/claims processing system, and that payment is issued directly to the provider, unless there is information presented that the ADSM has personally paid the provider.

4.0. THIRD PARTY LIABILITY (TPL)

Third party liability (TPL) processing requirements ([Chapter 11](#)) apply to all claims covered by this chapter. However, the contractor shall not delay adjudication action on a claim while awaiting completion of the TPL questionnaire and compilation of documentation. Instead, the contractor shall process the claim(s) to completion. When the contractor receives a completed TPL questionnaire and/or other related documentation, the contractor shall forward the documentation as directed in [Chapter 11](#).

5.0. END OF PROCESSING

The contractor shall issue Explanations of Benefits (EOBs) and provider summary vouchers for TRICARE Prime Remote claims according to TRICARE Prime claims processing procedures.

6.0. TED VOUCHER SUBMITTAL

The contractor shall report the TRICARE Prime Remote Program claims on vouchers according to TRICARE Systems Manual, [Chapter 2, Section 2.3](#). The TED for each claim must reflect the appropriate data element values.

7.0. PAYMENT TO THE CONTRACTOR

The contractor shall be reimbursed on a non-financially underwritten basis according to the provisions of [Chapter 3](#) for the health care costs incurred for each TPR Program claim processed to completion, upon acceptance of the vouchers by TMA.

8.0. AUDITS AND INSPECTION OF THE CONTRACTOR'S RECORDS

The contractor's records and performance shall be subject to periodic inspection at the discretion of the TMA and/or any of the Service Project Officers. Such inspections shall be conducted either at TMA or at the contractor's facility in accordance with the provisions described in [Chapter 15, Section 1](#). The Service Project Officers will coordinate with TMA any audit or inspection of the contractor's records.

9.0. STANDARDS

All TRICARE Program claims processing standards apply to TRICARE Prime Remote claims see [Chapter 1, Section 3](#).

ACTIVE DUTY CARE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are intended as a sampling of treatment situations. They are not all-inclusive and are provided to help providers and *the contractor* determine what types of health care services require a fitness-for-duty review by the service point of contact (SPOC) (Chapter 17, Addendum A). Providers and HCFs are encouraged to contact the SPOC in specific situations for information and clarification on health care for ADSMs. The contractor shall conduct the Prime medical necessity reviews as required by contract.

HEALTH CARE SERVICE	SPOC REVIEW REQUIRED	*WHERE IS CARE PROVIDED?
Primary care medical services	No	PCM (or TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider) or MTF
Emergency/Urgent consults and tests required within 48 hours	Yes, but care will not be delayed while waiting for SPOC response	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider
	Follow-up specialty care requires SPOC review	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider if approved by SPOC, or MTF
Periodic health assessments offered under Prime enhanced benefit	No	PCM (or TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider), or MTF
Periodic eye and hearing examinations	No	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF as designated by SPOC
Eye glasses/contacts	Yes	MTF or Service Labs; SPOC will provide information to ADSM
Annual GYN/Pap exam	No	PCM (or TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider), or MTF
	SPOC to review follow-on visits	PCM (or TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider if approved by SPOC), or MTF
Service specific physical exams (for DoD/Service forms)	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF as designated SPOC)

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CHAPTER 17, ADDENDUM B

ACTIVE DUTY CARE GUIDELINES

HEALTH CARE SERVICE	SPOC REVIEW REQUIRED	*WHERE IS CARE PROVIDED?
HIV testing incidental to an episode of care	No	PCM (or TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider)
Maternity Care: Routine-- Complicated pregnancies--	1st OB visit requires SPOC review; Routine OB follow-up visits and clinically indicated evaluations not related to complications (such as ultrasounds done for dating determinations) do not require SPOC review Care for complications of pregnancy, including care that requires invasive procedures or hospitalization(s) require SPOC review	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider
Hearing appliances	Yes	MTF; SPOC will provide information to ADSM
Orthotics	Yes <i>(except for foot orthotics)</i>	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider
Physical Therapy	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider
Service-required immunizations	No	PCM (or TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider), or MTF
Routine dental care and dental procedures	Forward claims and inquiries to SPOC	Civilian dentist (SPOC processes and pays claims)
Counseling by a marriage & family therapist	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider
Mental health counseling, psychiatric care and testing	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF
Invasive surgical-medical procedures - inpatient/ outpatient, non-emergency	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF as designated by SPOC
Family planning (tubal ligation/vasectomy)	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF as designated by SPOC
Infertility evaluation	No	PCM (or TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider)
	Yes (for follow-up specialty care/ surgery)	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF as designated by SPOC

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CHAPTER 17, ADDENDUM B

ACTIVE DUTY CARE GUIDELINES

HEALTH CARE SERVICE	SPOC REVIEW REQUIRED	*WHERE IS CARE PROVIDED?
Drug, alcohol & follow-on care for substance abuse	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF if designated by SPOC
Transplants	Yes	STS (or Authorized Civilian Transplant Center if STS not available)
Experimental protocols, as allowed by the Uniform Benefit	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF as designated by SPOC
Specialty dental care (crowns, bridges, endodontics, etc.)	Forward claims and inquiries to SPOC	Civilian dentist (SPOC processes and pays claims)
Adjunctive dental care	Forward claims and inquiries to SPOC	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider (SPOC processes and pays claims)
Ambulatory Surgery or Inpatient care	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider or MTF as designated by SPOC
Prescriptions for controlled substances	Yes (retrospective)	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider
All inpatient care	Yes	TRICARE-authorized Civilian Provider

* An ADSM may always choose to receive care from a military source even when the SPOC authorizes civilian care.

CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0. CONTRACTOR RECEIPT AND CONTROL OF SHCP CLAIMS

1.1. Post Office Box

The contractor may establish a dedicated post office box to receive claims and correspondence related to the Supplemental Health Care Program (SHCP). This dedicated box, if established, may be the same post office box which may be established for handling TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) and Non-Referred Care claims, as discussed in [Chapter 17](#) and [Chapter 19](#).

1.2. Claims Processing

1.2.1. Claims Processing And Reporting

Regardless of who submits the claim, SHCP claims shall be processed using the same standards in [Chapter 1](#), unless otherwise stated in this chapter. The contractor for the region in which the patient is enrolled shall process the claim to completion. The claims tracking and retrieval requirements of [Chapter 1, Section 3, paragraph 2.1](#). apply equally to SHCP claims. Reports on the timeliness of processing supplemental health care claims, as required under [paragraph 9.0.](#), are due to each Military Treatment Facility (MTF) no later than the 15th calendar day of the month following the reporting period. *The claims filing deadline outlined in [Chapter 8, Section 3, paragraph 1.2](#). does not apply to any Active Duty Service Member (ADSM) SHCP claim or for Active Duty Family Member (ADFM) SHCP claims for authorized In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment based on the sponsor's eligibility as a wounded warrior.*

1.2.2. Civilian Services Rendered To MTF Inpatients

Claims for MTF inpatients referred to a civilian facility or internal resource sharing provider for medical care (test, procedure, or consult) shall be processed to completion without application of a cost-share, copayment, or deductible. Nonavailability statements shall not be required. Costs for transportation of current MTF inpatients by ambulance to or from a civilian provider shall be considered medical costs and shall be reimbursed, as shall costs for inpatient care in civilian facilities. Additionally, claims for inpatients who are not TRICARE eligible (e.g., Service Secretary designee, parents, etc.), will be paid based on MTF authorization despite the lack of any Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) indication of eligibility. These are SHCP claims. SHCP shall not be used for TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries referred from an MTF as an inpatient. Such civilian claims shall be processed with Medicare first without consideration of SHCP.

1.2.3. Outpatient Care

Outpatient civilian care claims are to be processed according to the patient's enrollment status (see [paragraph 3.0.](#)). If the patient is TRICARE eligible, normal TRICARE processing requirements will apply. Additionally, for service determined eligible patients other than active duty, (e.g., ROTC, former members on the Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL), Reserve Component (RC), National Guard, eligible members enrolled in the Federal Recovery Coordination Program (FRCP), foreign military, etc.) claims will be paid based on an MTF authorization despite the lack of any DEERS indication of eligibility.

1.2.4. Emergency Civilian Hospitalization

If an emergency civilian hospitalization becomes necessary during the test or procedure referred by the MTF and comes to the attention of the contractor, it will be reported to the Patient Administration Department (PAD) of the referring MTF. The MTF will have primary case management responsibility, including authorization of care and patient movement for all civilian hospitalizations.

1.2.5. Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL)

Effective March 30, 2009, claims for periodic physical exams for participants on the TDRL will be processed based on the MTF authorization. These claims are SHCP claims, but will be maintained and tracked separately from other SHCP claims. It is the responsibility of the MTF to identify such referrals as TDRL referrals to the contractor at the time of authorization. SHCP funds shall not be used to treat the conditions which caused the member to be placed on the TDRL or for conditions discovered during the physical examination. The TRICARE Encounter Data (TED) record for each TDRL physical exam claim must reflect the Enrollment/Health Plan Code "SR" and the Special Processing Code "DE".

1.2.6. Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP)

Claims for participants in the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP) will be processed based on the MTF authorization. These claims are SHCP claims, but will be maintained and tracked separately from other SHCP claims. It is the responsibility of the MTF to identify such referrals as CCEP referrals to the contractor at the time of authorization.

1.2.7. Foreign Claims Processing

1.2.7.1. Process claims received by the contractor for patients covered by reciprocal host nation health care agreements in accordance with the current requirements of the TRICARE Operations Manual (TOM) and the TRICARE Policy Manual (TPM).

1.2.7.2. Forward claims received for personnel permanently assigned to an overseas location to the appropriate overseas claims processor for processing in accordance with the TPM, [Chapter 12](#), TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP).

1.2.8. Claims Received With Both MTF-Referred And Non-Referred Lines

The contractor shall use the same best business practices as used for other Prime enrollees in determining Episode Of Care (EOC) when the claims are received with lines of care that contain both MTF-Referred and non-referred lines. Claims received which contain services outside the originally referred EOC on an **ADSM** must come back to the Primary Care Manager (PCM) for approval. Laboratory tests, radiology tests, echocardiogram, holter monitors, pulmonary function tests, and routine treadmills associated with that EOC may be considered part of the originally requested services and do not need to come back to the PCM for approval.

1.2.9. Medical and Dental Care for Former Members with Serious *Illnesses/Injuries*

Medically retired former members of the Armed Services enrolled in the FRCP shall receive the same medical and dental care for that severe or serious illness or injury that would be available to an **ADSM** when the care is not reasonably available through the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

1.2.9.1. Under the Department of Defense (DoD)/VA FRCP, *ill/injured* service members are categorized based on the severity of their illness or injury. The severely *ill/injured* (category 3) are identified and assigned Federal Recovery Coordinators (FRCs). The seriously *ill/injured* (category 2) are identified and assigned a Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC). The role of these coordinators is to facilitate and track enrolled members' recovery.

1.2.9.2. In cases where care cannot be reasonably provided in a timely manner through the VA, the FRC or RCC, working through the FRCP, will facilitate care through MTFs or TRICARE providers. The FRCP will notify the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO) when the VA cannot reasonably provide an EOC in a timely manner. MMSO, in turn, will send to the contractor authorization to pay for the EOC under the SHCP. This authorization will supersede any DEERS eligibility response.

1.2.9.3. Qualification for this program will terminate for those members who are initially authorized while included on the TDRL when/if it is determined they achieve a "fit for duty" status.

1.2.9.4. Care authorized by Section 1631 will expire December 31, 2012.

1.2.9.5. TRICARE Encounter Data (TED) records must reflect Enrollment/Health Plan Code "SR - SHCP Referred Care."

1.3. Authorization Verification

1.3.1. The contractor shall verify that care provided was authorized by the MTF.

1.3.1.1. When a MTF referral directs evaluation or treatment of a condition, as opposed to directing a specific service(s), the **contractor** shall use its best business practices in determining the services encompassed within the EOC, indicated by the referral. The services may include laboratory tests, radiology tests, echocardiogram, holter monitors, pulmonary function tests, and routine treadmills associated with that EOC. A separate MTF

authorization for these services is not required. If a civilian provider requests additional treatment outside of the original EOC, the *contractor* shall contact the referring or enrolling MTF for approval.

1.3.1.2. If an authorization is not on file, then the contractor shall place the claim in a pending file and verify authorization with the MTF to which the ADSM is enrolled. The contractor shall contact the MTF within one working day. If the MTF retroactively authorizes the care, then the contractor shall enter the authorization and notify the claims processor to process the claim for payment. If the MTF determines that the care was not authorized, the contractor shall notify the claims processor and an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) denying the claim shall be initiated. If the contractor does not receive the MTF's response within four working days, the contractor shall, within one working day, enter the contractor's authorization code into the contractor's claims processing system. Claims authorized due to a lack of response from the MTF shall be considered as "Referred Care."

1.3.2. For outpatient active duty, TDRL, non-TRICARE eligible patients, eligible members enrolled in the FRCP, and for all SHCP inpatients, there will be no application by the contractor of the DEERS Catastrophic Cap and Deductible Data (CCDD), Third Party Liability (TPL), or Other Health Insurance (OHI) processing procedures, for supplemental health care claims. Normal TRICARE rules will apply for all TRICARE eligible outpatients' claims. Outpatient claims for non-enrolled Medicare eligibles will be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor.

2.0. COVERAGE

2.1. Normal TRICARE coverage limitations will not apply to services rendered to supplemental health care patients. Services that have been authorized will be covered regardless of whether they would have ordinarily been covered under TRICARE policy. *A waiver is not required for the purchase of custom-fitted foot orthoses for ADSMs.* On occasion a referral may be made for services from a provider of a type which is not TRICARE authorized. The contractor shall not make claims payments to sanctioned or suspended providers. (See [Chapter 14, Section 6.](#)) The claim shall be denied if a sanctioned or suspended provider bills for services. MTFs do not have the authority to overturn the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) or Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provider exclusions. TRICARE utilization review and utilization management requirements will not apply.

2.2. Unlike a normal TRICARE authorization, an MTF authorization shall be deemed to constitute referral, authorization, eligibility verification, and direction to bypass provider certification and Non-Availability Statement (NAS) rules. The contractor shall take measures as appropriate to enable them to distinguish between the two authorization types.

2.3. Within the category of SHCP, the contractor shall identify referrals by the MTF for the CCEP. The contractor shall take measures as appropriate to distinguish these claims from other SHCP claims.

2.4. Ancillary Services

An MTF authorization for care includes any ancillary services related to the health care authorized.

2.5. Provision Of Respite Care For The Benefit Of Seriously Ill/Injured Active Duty Members

2.5.1. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 established respite care and other extended care benefits for members of the Uniformed Services (including RC members) who incur a serious *illness/injury* while on active duty. The eligibility rules and exclusions contained in [32 CFR 199.5\(e\)\(3\)](#) and [\(5\)](#) do not apply to the provision of respite benefits for an ADSM. See [Addendum C](#) for definitions, terms, and limitations applicable to the respite care benefit.

2.5.2. ADSMs may qualify for respite care benefits regardless of their enrollment status. ADSMs in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia may qualify if they are enrolled in TRICARE Prime, TPR, or not enrolled and receiving services in accordance with the non-enrolled/non-referred provisions for the use of SHCP funds. ADSMs outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia may qualify if they are enrolled to TOP Prime (with enrollment to an MTF), TRICARE Global Remote Overseas (TGRO), TRICARE Puerto Rico, or not enrolled and receiving services in accordance with the non-enrolled/non-referred provisions for ADSM care overseas (see the TPM, [Chapter 12](#)).

NOTE: Respite care benefits must be performed by a TRICARE-authorized Home Health Agency (HHA), regardless of the ADSM's location (see [32 CFR 199.6\(b\)\(4\)\(xv\)](#) for HHA definition).

2.5.3. There are no cost-shares or copays for ADSM respite benefits when those services are approved by the member's Direct Care System (DCS) case manager or other appropriate DCS authority (i.e., MMSO Service Point of Contact (SPOC), the enrolled or referring MTF, TRICARE Area Office (TAO), or Community-Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO)).

2.5.4. All SHCP requirements and provisions of [Chapters 17, 18, and 19](#) apply to this benefit unless changed or modified by this paragraph. The appropriate chapter for the status of the ADSM shall apply. Contractors shall follow the requirements and provisions of these chapters, to include MTF or MMSO referrals and authorizations, receipt and control of claims, authorization verification, reimbursement and payment mechanisms to providers, reimbursement specifying no cost-share, copay, or deductible to be paid by the ADSM *or their lawful spouse*, use of CHAMPUS Maximum Allowable Charges (CMACs)/Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) when applicable, and TRICARE Encounter Data (TED) submittal.

2.5.5. Contractors shall follow the provisions of the TRICARE Systems Manual (TSM), [Chapter 2, Sections 2.8 and 6.4](#) regarding the TED special processing code for the ADSM respite benefit. Claims should indicate an appropriate procedure code for respite care (CPT¹ 99600 or HCPCS S9122-S9124) and shall be reimbursed based upon the allowable charge or the negotiated rate.

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2.5.6. Respite care services and requirements are as follows:

2.5.6.1. Respite care is authorized for a member of the Uniformed Services on active duty and has a qualifying condition as defined in [Addendum C](#).

2.5.6.2. Respite care is available if an ADSM's plan of care includes frequent interventions by the primary caregiver(s).

2.5.6.3. ADSMs receiving respite care are eligible to receive a maximum of 40 respite hours in a calendar week, no more than five days per calendar week and no more than eight hours per calendar day. No additional benefit caps apply.

2.5.6.4. Respite benefits shall be provided by a TRICARE-authorized HHA and are intended to mirror the benefits under the TRICARE *Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)* Home Health Care (EHHC) program described in the TPM, [Chapter 9, Section 15.1](#).

NOTE: Contractors are not required to enroll ADSMs in the ECHO program (or a comparable program) for this respite benefit.

2.5.6.5. Authorized respite care does not cover care for other dependents or others who may reside in or be visiting the ADSM's residence.

2.5.6.6. In addition, consistent with the requirement that respite care services shall be provided by a TRICARE-authorized HHA, services or items provided or prescribed by a member of the patient's family or a person living in the same household are excluded from respite care benefit coverage.

2.5.6.7. The contractor shall follow the reimbursement methodology for the similar respite care benefit found in the TPM, [Chapter 9](#), as modified by ADSM SHCP reimbursement methodology contained in [Chapters 17, 18, and 19](#) (for ADSMs located in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia) or TOP reimbursement methodology contained in the TPM, [Chapter 12](#) (for ADSMs located outside the 50 United States and the District of Columbia).

2.5.7. Should other services or supplies not outlined above, or otherwise available under the TRICARE program, be considered necessary for the care or treatment of an ADSM, a request may be submitted to the MMSO, MTF, or TAO for authorization of payment.

2.6. Transitional Care For Service-Related Conditions (TCSRC)

2.6.1. Introduction

The NDAA for FY 2008, Section 1637 provides extended TCSRC for former ADSMs during the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) coverage period. This change does not create a new class of beneficiaries, but expands/extends the period of TRICARE eligibility for certain former ADSMs, with certain service-related conditions, beyond the TAMP coverage period.

2.6.2. Prerequisites For TCSRC

In accordance with NDAA 2008, a member, who is eligible for care under the TAMP, and who has a medical (as defined in [32 CFR 199.2](#)) or adjunctive dental condition believed to be related to their service on active duty may receive extended transitional care for that condition. The diagnosis determination must include the following criteria:

2.6.2.1. To be service-related; and

2.6.2.2. To have been first discovered/diagnosed by the member's civilian or TRICARE health care practitioner during the TAMP period and validated by a DoD physician; and

2.6.2.3. The medical condition requires treatment and can be resolved within 180 days, as determined by a DoD physician, from the date the condition is validated by the DoD physician.

2.6.2.3.1. The period of coverage for the TCSRC shall be no more than 180 days from the date the diagnosed condition is validated by a DoD physician. If a medical condition is identified during the TAMP coverage period, but not validated by a DoD physician until a date after the TAMP coverage period, the start date will be the date that the condition was validated by a DoD physician.

2.6.2.3.2. Service members who are discovered to have a service-related condition, which can not be resolved within the 180 day transitional care period, should be referred by MMSO to the former member's service or to the Veterans Administration (VA) for a determination of eligibility for government provided care.

2.6.2.3.3. Care is authorized for the service-related condition for 180 days from the date the DoD physician validates the service-related condition. For example a service-related condition validated on day 90 of TAMP will result in the following timelines: Care under TAMP for other than the service-related condition terminates on day 180 after the beginning of TAMP coverage. Care for the service-related condition terminates on day 270 in this example (180 days from the day the service-related condition is validated by a DOD physician).

2.6.3. Eligibility

2.6.3.1. The eligible pool of beneficiaries are former ADSMs who are within their 180 day TAMP coverage period, regardless of where they currently reside.

2.6.3.2. A DoD physician must determine that the condition meets the criteria in [paragraph 2.6.2](#). Final validation of the condition must be made by the DoD Physician associated with MMSO. If the determination is made that the member is eligible for this program, the former member shall be entitled to receive medical and adjunctive dental care for that condition, and that condition only, as if they were still on active duty. Enrollment into this program does not affect the eligibility requirements for any other TRICARE program for the former service member or their family members.

2.6.3.3. Enrollment in the TCSRC includes limited eligibility for MTF Pharmacy, Retail Pharmacy, and TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) benefits.

2.6.4. Implementation Steps, Processing For MMSO, And Contractor Requirements And Responsibilities

The processes and requirements for a member with a possible Section 1637 condition are spelled out in paragraphs 2.6.4.1. through 2.6.4.7. These steps, requirements, and responsibilities are applicable to MMSO, the *contractors*, TRICARE civilian providers, and the Armed Forces, and are provided to make each aware of the steps, processes, and responsibilities/requirements of each organization.

2.6.4.1. TMA Beneficiary Education and Support Division (BE&SD) will educate beneficiaries on the Section 1637 benefit. Contractors will collaborate with BE&SD in the development of materials that support both beneficiary and provider education.

2.6.4.2. A former ADSM on TAMP that believes he/she has a service-related condition which may qualify them for the TCSRC program is to be referred to MMSO for instructions on how to apply for the benefit.

2.6.4.3. MMSO will determine if further clinical evaluation/testing of the former ADSM is needed to validate that the member has a qualifying condition for enrollment into the Section 1637 program. If further clinical evaluation/testing is needed, MMSO will follow existing "defer to network" referral processes and the *contractor* will execute a referral and authorization to support healthcare delivery for the area in which the member resides. Based on the member's residential address, the *contractor* will locate the proper healthcare delivery site. If a DoD MTF is within the one hour drive time Access To Care (ATC) standards and the MTF has the capabilities, the MTF is to receive the referral request for consideration. If there is no MTF or the MTF does not have the capabilities, then the *contractor* should ascertain if a Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) medical facility (as a network provider) is within ATC standards and the facility has the capabilities. If neither of the above are available, then the *contractor* shall locate a civilian provider that has both the capability and capacity to accept this referral request within the prescribed ATC standards. The *contractor* will execute an active provider locator process (Health Care Finder (HCF)) to support the member's need for this referral request. MMSO's "defer to network" request will be acted on by the *contractor* under the normal "urgent/72 hour" requirement. The *contractor* will inform the member of the appropriate delivery site and provider contact information for the member to make the appointment. If this care is obtained in the civilian sector or a VA medical facility, the contractor shall pay these claims in the same manner as other active duty claims. The *contractor* will instruct the accepting provider to return the results of the encounter to MMSO within 48 hours of the encounter. Once any additional information is received, the DoD physician associated with MMSO will make the determination of eligibility for the Section 1637 program. The eligibility determination for coverage under the Section 1637 benefit will be made within 30 calendar days of receiving the member's request, inclusive of the time required to obtain additional information. If the condition does not meet the criteria for enrollment into the Section 1637 program, but the former ADSM is otherwise eligible for TRICARE benefits, they may continue to receive care for the condition, following existing TRICARE guidelines. The former ADSM may appeal the decision of the DoD *p*hysician in writing to MMSO within 30 calendar days of receipt of the denial by the DoD physician.

MMSO will issue a final determination within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. If MMSO determines the condition should be covered under the Section 1637 benefit, coverage will begin on the date MMSO renders the final determination.

2.6.4.4. If the DoD physician determines the individual is eligible for the Section 1637 program, MMSO will provide the enrollment information (Enrollment Start date and condition authorized for treatment) to the member and the contractor responsible for enrollments in the region where the former service member resides. This notice will clearly identify it is for the Section 1637 program. The contractor shall enroll the former service member into the Section 1637 program on DEERS using DEERS Online Enrollment System (DOES) within four business days of receiving the notification from MMSO. This entry will include the Start Date (date condition validated by the DoD physician), an EOC Code, and an EOC Description. The contractor will enter the validated condition covered by the Section 1637 program (received from MMSO) into the contractor's referral and authorization system within eight business days of receipt of the notification from MMSO. The *contractor* shall actively assist the member using the HCF program in determining the location of final restorative healthcare for the identified Section 1637 condition. The location of service shall be determined as defined in [paragraph 2.6.4.3](#). The *contractor* shall instruct the accepting provider on the terms of this final "eval and treat" referral from MMSO and when and where to send clinical results/findings to close out MMSO's files on the Section 1637 eligible member. DEERS shall store the secondary Health Care Delivery Plan (HCDP) code, the date the condition was validated by the DoD physician, the EOC Code, and the EOC Description. DEERS shall return the HCDP code, the start and end dates for the coverage plan, the EOC Code, and the EOC Description with every eligibility query. This program is portable across all contractors.

2.6.4.5. The member in the TCSRC program will obtain the appropriate care for the service-related condition close to their residence, as defined in [paragraphs 2.6.4.3](#) and [2.6.4.4](#). Civilian and VA claims for the specific condition will be processed as if the member were still on active duty, with no copayments required. If the "eval" or "eval and treat" referrals sent to the *contractor* from MMSO are presented to an MTF for execution, and the MTF accepts, any subsequent MTF generated "defer to network" requests will be accepted, recorded, and claim adjudicated; and this process may be outside the *contractor's* EOC coding/criteria. The *contractor* may request clarifications from the MTF on a subsequent "defer to network" request if the referral is for healthcare delivery that is not apparently related to the Section 1637 determined condition.

2.6.4.6. The Section 1637 benefit shall be terminated 180 days after the validated diagnosis is made by the DoD physician, no matter the status of the service-related condition. Following the termination of the Transitional Care period, further care for this service-related condition may be provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

2.6.4.7. Personnel on active duty for longer than 30 calendar days will have their Section 1637 coverage terminated by DEERS. Personnel scheduled to report for active duty (Early Alert Status), may have both the Section 1637 HCDP and HCDP 001 (for *active duty*). Once the active duty period actually begins, Section 1637 coverage will be terminated. If active duty orders are cancelled prior to entry on active duty, Section 1637 coverage will continue until the original end date. There is no reinstatement of the terminated Section 1637 coverage.

2.6.5. Claims Processing And Payment

2.6.5.1. The Section 1637 HCDP code can be present with any other HCDP code. During claims processing, if the TCSRC HCDP is received from DEERS, the contractor must first determine if the claim being processed is for the Section 1637 condition. If the claim is for the specific service-related condition, the claim shall be processed and paid as if the member were an ADSM. The *contractor* shall determine if the claim is for an MTF directed “defer to network” request for the Section 1637 condition. The *contractor* shall determine if the MTF “defer to network” request is related to the Section 1637 condition; which may not relate to the EOC codes determined by the *contractor*. If the claim is not for the covered condition, the claim shall be processed following the standard TRICARE procedures. If the claim includes services for the Section 1637 covered condition, and additional services, the contractor must assess the claim's status and take one of the following actions:

2.6.5.1.1. Contractor Splits Claim. If a contractor receives a claim for a member eligible for Section 1637 coverage and the claim includes services not covered by the Section 1637 diagnosis, and the contractor can determine which services are covered under the Section 1637 condition, then the contractor will split the claim into separate claims.

2.6.5.1.2. Contractor Returns Claim to Provider. If the claim does not meet the conditions described above, then the contractor will return the claim to the submitter with an explanation that indicates the claim must be split in order to be paid.

2.6.5.2. Where a beneficiary has had clinical evaluation(s)/tests performed to determine eligibility for Section 1637 coverage and has paid for those clinical evaluation(s)/tests out-of-pocket, the contractor shall process any claim received for such clinical evaluation(s)/tests and shall pay any such claim as if the member were an ADSM.

2.6.5.3. Members with multiple service-related conditions will have multiple Section 1637 enrollments. Each condition may have the same or different begin and end dates.

2.6.5.4. Jurisdiction rules for Section 1637 coverage shall be in accordance with [Chapter 8, Section 2](#).

2.6.5.5. The contractors shall pay all claims submitted for the specific service-related condition in the same manner as other *active duty* claims. There shall be no application of catastrophic cap, deductibles, cost-shares, copayments or coordination of benefits for these claims. Claims paid for the specific service-related condition under this change should be paid from non-financially underwritten funds.

2.6.5.6. Claims paid for medical care under the 180 day TAMP program, for other than the service-related condition, shall continue to be paid as an ADFM beneficiary under TRICARE with application of appropriate cost-shares and deductibles for these claims. The Section 1637 benefit does not extend the duration of the TAMP period beyond 180 days.

2.6.5.7. If the contractor is unable to determine the care received is covered by the Section 1637 diagnosis, the claim is to be pended while the contractor obtains further clarification from MMSO.

2.6.5.8. Pharmacy transactions at retail network pharmacies are processed on-line using the HIPAA data transaction standard of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP). Under this standard, claims are adjudicated real time for eligibility along with clinical and administrative edits at the point of service which includes cost-share determinations based on the member's primary HCDP code.

2.6.5.8.1. Enrolled members determined to be eligible for pharmacy services based on their primary HCDP code will pay appropriate cost-shares as determined by their primary HCDP code and will submit a paper claim to the pharmacy contractor to seek reimbursement of these costs shares. Enrollment documentation that includes the specific condition for Section 1637 enrollment shall be submitted with their claim. The pharmacy contractor will verify eligibility in DEERS and determine coverage of the prescription based on the specific condition detailed in the supporting documentation.

2.6.5.8.2. Enrolled members determined to not be eligible for pharmacy services based on their primary HCDP code will pay out-of-pocket for the total cost of the prescription and then submit a paper claim to the pharmacy contractor for reimbursement. The pharmacy contractor shall verify eligibility in DEERS and determine coverage of the prescription based on the specific condition detailed in the supporting documentation.

2.6.5.8.3. Enrolled members may submit prescriptions related to their specific coverage to the TMOP. Enrollment documentation that includes the specific condition for enrollment shall be submitted with their claim. The pharmacy contractor shall verify eligibility in DEERS and determine coverage of the prescription based on the specific condition detailed in the supporting documentation. Prescriptions determined not to be related to the covered condition shall be processed based on the members primary HCDP code, or returned to the member unfilled if ineligible for coverage both under the program and their primary HCDP code.

2.6.5.8.4. In situations where the supporting document submitted by the member to the pharmacy contractor does not provide sufficient detail of their covered condition, the pharmacy contractor will contact MMSO to obtain appropriate documentation of their covered condition needed to make a coverage determination and process the claim.

2.6.6. Definitions

2.6.6.1. Validated Date and Diagnosis. The date a DoD physician (Military or Civil Service) validates the diagnosis of a service-related condition and validates that the condition can be resolved within 180 days.

2.6.6.2. MMSO. The centralized government office which will be the overall government organization to provide government services to TAMP members that have a service-related condition.

2.7. *Provisions Of Reproductive Services For The Benefit Of Seriously Or Severely Ill/ Injured ADSMs Under The SHCPs*

Assisted reproductive services, including sperm retrieval, oocyte retrieval, In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF), artificial insemination, and blastocyst implantation, are available for seriously or

severely ill/injured female and male service members (Category II and III). This is a benefit offered based on the condition of the seriously or severely ill/injured service member not the spouse; therefore, the use of the SHCP is authorized.

2.7.1. Policy Guidelines

2.7.1.1. *The policy applies to service members, regardless of gender, who have sustained a serious or severe illness/injury while on active duty that led to the loss of their natural procreative ability. It is the intent of this policy to provide IVF services only to consenting male members whose illness or injury prevents the successful delivery of their sperm to their spouse's egg and to consenting female members whose illness or injury prevents their egg from being successfully fertilized by their spouse's sperm, but who maintain ovarian function and have a patent uterine cavity. This includes, but is not limited to, those suffering neurological, physiological, and/or anatomical injuries.*

2.7.1.2. *The policy provides for the provision of assisted reproductive technologies to assist in the reduction of the disabling effects of the member's qualifying condition. The authority for this policy for care outside of the basic medical benefit is derived from Section 1633 of the 2008 NDAA. This Section allows the ADSM to receive services that may be outside of the standard TRICARE medical benefit. This benefit is provided through the authorization of the expenditure of SHCP funds and delivery of the needed services in either MTFs that offer assisted reproductive technologies or in the purchased care sector that are outside the medical benefit. Although purchased care is available for this benefit depending on the service member's circumstances not allowing him or her to travel, the use of MTFs shall be encouraged, with members eligible for this benefit given priority for care at MTFs if there is a waiting list. If the member receives care or medications in the civilian sector, participating network providers must be used if available. Preauthorization for every IVF cycle is required.*

2.7.1.3. *The benefit is limited to permitting a qualified member to procreate with their lawful spouse, as defined in federal statute and regulation.*

2.7.1.4. *The benefit would apply equally to male and female seriously or severely ill/injured service members (Category II or III). Male members must be able to produce sperm, but need alternative sperm collection technologies as they can no longer ejaculate in a way that allows for egg fertilization. Ill/injured female members require ovarian function and a patent uterine cavity that would allow them to successfully carry a fetus even if unable to conceive naturally (e.g., through damage to their fallopian tubes).*

2.7.1.5. *Third party donations and surrogacy are not covered benefits. The benefit is designed to allow the member and their dependent spouse to become biological parents through reproductive technologies where the ADSM's illness or injury has made it impossible to conceive naturally.*

2.7.1.6. *Consent must be able to be given by the ADSM and his or her lawful spouse. Third party consent is not authorized under this policy.*

2.7.1.7. *The DoD will cost-share the costs of cryopreservation and storage of embryos for up to three years. At the end of three years or when the member separates/retires (whichever comes first), couples are free to continue embryo storage at their own expense if desired. Issues regarding ownership, future embryo use, donation, and/or destruction, etc. shall be governed by the applicable state law and shall be the responsibility of the ADSM and his/her lawful spouse and the facility storing the cryopreserved embryos. DoD's role is limited to paying for this benefit when requested by the*

consenting member. DoD will not have ownership or custody of cryopreserved embryos and will not be involved in the ultimate disposition of excess embryos. Ultimate disposition or destruction of excess embryos will not be cost-shared.

2.7.2. Procedures

2.7.2.1. *Prediction of fertility potential (Ovarian Reserve) will be conducted in accordance with the provider clinic's practice guidelines. (This may include a Clomiphene Citrate Challenge Test (CCCT) and evaluation of the uterine cavity.) Beneficiaries with a likelihood of success, based on the specific clinic's guidelines, will be provided IVF cycles under this benefit. Infertility testing and treatment, including correction of the physical cause of infertility, are covered in accordance with the TPM, Chapter 4, Section 17.1.*

2.7.2.2. *Three completed IVF cycles will be provided for the seriously or severely ill/injured female service member or lawful spouse of the seriously or severely ill/injured male service member. No more than six IVF cycles will be initiated for the seriously or severely ill/injured female service member or legal spouse of the seriously or severely ill/injured male service member. In other words, there may be a total of six attempts to accomplish three completed IVF cycles. If the ill/injured ADSM has used initiated IVF cycles, subsequently remarries and desires this benefit with the new spouse, the number of cycles available is dependent on prior cycles used.*

2.7.2.3. *Assisted reproductive service centers with capability to provide full services including alternative methods of sperm aspiration will be invited to participate in the TRICARE network by the contractors. (Membership in the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), with associated certification(s), is highly recommended for network providers. Reporting outcomes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is mandatory.) When a network provider is not available, the benefits provided under this policy may be provided by any TRICARE-authorized provider, including those authorized pursuant to 32 CFR 199.6(e).*

2.7.2.4. *IVF cycles shall be accomplished in accordance with the practice guideline for the provider clinic using gonadotropins, which are concentrated mixtures of Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) or FSH and Luteinizing Hormone (LH) given as an injection to stimulate the ovary to produce multiple oocytes in preparation for egg retrieval. These medications will be purchased through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP), a TRICARE network or non-network pharmacy, or MTF.*

2.7.2.5. *Anesthesia or conscious sedation will be provided for the oocyte retrieval and sperm aspiration in accordance with the TPM, Chapter 3, Sections 1.1 and 1.2. For males, sperm aspiration through Microsurgical Epididymal Sperm Aspiration (MESA), Percutaneous Epididymal Sperm Aspiration (PESA), or non-surgical fine needle aspiration will be accomplished in conjunction with egg retrieval. Vibratory stimulation or electro-ejaculation may be used if appropriate for the seriously or severely ill/injured service member.*

2.7.2.6. *Intracytoplasmic sperm injection will be accomplished for all viable oocytes.*

2.7.2.7. *Embryo transfer in accordance with guidelines provided by the ASRM shall be accomplished in accordance with specific clinic practices at either cleavage stage or blastocyst stage of the embryo.*

2.7.2.8. *Healthy embryos that progress to an appropriate stage, as assessed by the embryologist, in excess of those used for the fresh embryo transfer may be cryopreserved. Storage of cryopreserved embryos for up to three years will be a covered benefit so long as the member remains eligible for this benefit. Ownership of cryopreserved embryos will be the responsibility of the ADSM and their spouse and documented in accordance with clinic policies.*

2.7.2.9. *In the event that frozen embryos are available for transfer, TRICARE will authorize frozen embryo transfer cycles to facilitate the utilization of these embryos. Frozen embryo transfers may be accomplished in fresh ovulatory cycles or in medicated transfer cycles in order to provide the optimal uterine environment for embryo implantation.*

2.7.3. Process for Participating in Assisted Reproductive Services Program

2.7.3.1. *For an ADSM to be eligible, there must be documentation of Category II or III illness or injury designation as defined in Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1300.24.*

2.7.3.2. *A memorandum must come from the ADSM's PCM or other provider significantly involved in the care of the qualifying condition(s). Certification of the illness or injury category shall be made by the provider and endorsed by the member's service. The memorandum shall include the following:*

- *ADSM's qualifying diagnosis(es).*
- *Category (II or III).*
- *Summary of relevant medical information supporting category designation.*
- *Name of provider of reproductive services requested to be used.*
- *Number of initiated IVF cycles.*
- *Number of cancelled IVF cycles.*

2.7.3.3. *The memorandum is sent to the member's service for endorsement, and then sent electronically to TMA, Office of the Chief Medical Officer (OCMO) where verification of the member's eligibility for this benefit will be completed. Please send e-mails to: TMASHCPWaiverRequests@tma.osd.mil.*

2.7.3.4. *This authorization shall be forwarded to the appropriate MTF or the MMSO as well as the TRICARE Regional Office (TRO). The preauthorization will be requested from the appropriate contractor. This preauthorization will allow the use of SHCP funds for this treatment. SHCP enrollment code must be identified on all of these authorizations.*

2.7.3.5. *In order to verify eligibility, number of attempts (and completed attempts), and all other requirements, all IVF cycles must be preauthorized. OCMO will verify the eligibility of each member for each cycle with a memo. This memo will go through the relevant service back to the MTF or MMSO will request a preauthorization for each cycle.*

2.7.3.6. *All TED records for this benefit shall include Enrollment/Health Plan Code "SR SHCP - Referred Care" regardless of the enrollment status returned by DEERS. The contractor shall follow all applicable TED coding requirements in accordance with TSM, [Chapter 2](#).*

2.7.3.7. *All SHCP requirements and provisions of [Chapter 17](#) apply to this benefit unless changed or modified by this paragraph. The appropriate chapter for the status of the ADSM shall apply.*

Contractors shall follow the requirements and provisions of this chapter, to include MTF or MMSO referrals and authorizations, receipt and control of claims, authorization verification, reimbursement and payment mechanisms to providers, reimbursement specifying no cost-share, copay, or deductible to be paid by the ADSM or their lawful spouse, and use of CMACs/DRGs when applicable.

2.7.4. Exclusions

2.7.4.1. *Third party donations or surrogacy cannot be cost-shared.*

2.7.4.2. *Cryopreservation of gametes in anticipation of deployment.*

2.7.4.3. *Services related to gender selection will NOT be cost-shared.*

3.0. ENROLLMENT STATUS EFFECT ON CLAIMS PROCESSING

3.1. Active duty claims shall be processed without application of a cost-share, copayment, or deductible. These are SHCP claims.

3.2. Claims for TRICARE Prime enrollees who are in MTF inpatient status shall be processed without application of a cost-share, copayment, or deductible. These are SHCP claims.

3.3. Claims for TRICARE Prime enrollees who are not in MTF inpatient status shall be processed with the application of the appropriate TRICARE copays. These are TRICARE claims and not SHCP claims.

3.4. Claims for TRICARE eligibles, who are not enrolled in Prime, and who are not in MTF inpatient status, shall be processed in accordance with TRICARE Extra or Standard procedures. These are TRICARE claims and not SHCP claims.

3.5. Claims for services provided under the current Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between the DoD (including Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the DHHS (including the Indian Health Service (IHS), Public Health Service (PHS), etc.) are not covered. These are not SHCP claims.

3.6. Claims for services not included in the current MOU between the DoD (including the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the DHHS shall be processed in accordance with the requirements in this chapter. These are SHCP claims.

3.7. Claims for services provided under any local MOU between the DoD (including the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the DVA are not covered. These are not SHCP claims. (Claims for services provided under the current national MOA for Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury and Blind Rehabilitation are covered, see [Chapter 18, Section 2, paragraph 3.1.](#))

3.8. Claims for services not included in the current MOU between the DoD (including the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps facilities) and the DVA, including TDRL claims, shall be processed in accordance with the requirements in this chapter. These are SHCP claims.

3.9. Claims for participants in the CCEP shall be processed for payment solely on the basis of MTF authorization. There will not be a cost-share, copayment, or deductible applied to these claims. These are SHCP claims.

3.10. Claims for non-TRICARE eligibles shall be processed for payment solely on the basis of MTF authorization. There will not be a cost-share, copayment, or deductible applied to these claims. These are SHCP claims.

3.11. Outpatient claims for non-TRICARE Medicare eligibles will be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor. These are not SHCP or TRICARE claims.

3.12. Claims for TDRL participants shall be processed for payment in accordance with DoD/HA Policy Letter dated March 30, 2009, Subject: Policy Guidance for Use of Supplemental Health Care Program Funds to Pay for Required Physical Examinations for Members on the Temporary Disability Retirement List. There will not be a cost-share, copayment, or deductible applied to these claims. These are SHCP claims. SHCP funds will only be applied to the exam. SHCP funds shall not be used to treat the condition which caused member to be placed on the TDRL or for conditions discovered during the exam.

3.13. Claims from members enrolled in the FRCP shall be processed without application of a cost-share, copayment, or deductible. These are SHCP claims.

4.0. MEDICAL RECORDS

The current contract requirements for medical records shall also apply to ADSMs in this program. Narrative summaries and other documentation of care rendered (including laboratory reports and X-rays) shall be given to the ADSM for delivery to his/her PCM and inclusion in his/her military health record. The contractor shall be responsible for all administrative/copying costs. Under no circumstances will the ADSM be charged for this documentation. Network providers shall be reimbursed for medical records photocopying and postage costs incurred at the rates established in their network provider participation agreements. Participating and non-participating providers shall be reimbursed for medical records photocopying and postage costs on the basis of billed charges. ADSMs who have paid for copied records and applicable postage costs shall be reimbursed for the full amount paid to ensure they have no out of pocket expenses. All providers and/or patients must submit a claim form, with the charges clearly identified, to the contractor for reimbursement. ADSM's claim forms should be accompanied by a receipt showing the amount paid.

5.0. REIMBURSEMENT

5.1. Allowable amounts are to be determined based upon the TRICARE payment reimbursement methodology applicable to the services reflected on the claim, (e.g., DRGs, mental health per diem, CMAC, Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), or TRICARE network provider discount). Reimbursement for services not ordinarily covered by TRICARE and/or rendered by a provider who cannot be a TRICARE authorized provider shall be at billed amounts.

5.2. Claims with codes on the TRICARE inpatient only list performed in an outpatient setting will be denied, except in those situations where the beneficiary dies in an emergency room prior to admission. Reference the TRM, [Chapter 13, Section 2, paragraph III.D.](#) Professional providers may submit with modifier CA. No bypass authority is authorized for inpatient only procedure editing. Bypass authority is authorized for codes contained on the Government No Pay List when the service is authorized by the MTF.

5.3. Cost-sharing and deductibles shall not be applied to supplemental health care claims for MTF referred services rendered to uniformed service members, to other MTF referred patients who are not TRICARE eligible, to TDRL participants, to members enrolled in the FRCP, or to patients who receive referred civilian services while remaining in an MTF inpatient status.

5.4. Pending development and implementation of recently enacted legislative authority to waive CMACs under TRICARE, the following interim procedures shall be followed when necessary to assure adequate availability of health care to ADSMs under SHCP. If required services are not available from a network or participating provider within the medically appropriate time frame, the contractor shall arrange for care with a non-participating provider subject to the normal reimbursement rules. The contractor initially shall make every effort to obtain the provider's agreement to accept, as payment in full, a rate within the 100% of CMAC limitation. If this is not feasible, the contractor shall make every effort to obtain the provider's agreement to accept, as payment in full, a rate between 100% and 115% of CMAC. If the latter is not feasible, the contractor shall determine the lowest acceptable rate that the provider will accept and communicate the same to the referring MTF. A waiver of CMAC limitation must be obtained by the MTF from the Regional Director (RD), as the designee of the Chief Operating Officer (COO), TMA, before patient referral is made to ensure that the patient does not bear any out-of-pocket expense. Upon approval of a CMAC waiver by the RD, the MTF will notify the contractor who shall then conclude rate negotiations, and notify the MTF when an agreement with the provider has been reached. The contractor shall ensure that the approved payment is annotated in the authorization/claims processing system, and that payment is issued directly to the provider, unless there is information presented that the ADSM has personally paid the provider.

5.5. Referred patients who have been required by the provider to make "up front" payment at the time services are rendered will be required to submit a claim to the contractor with an explanation and proof of such payment.

5.5.1. Supplemental health care claims for uniformed service members, members enrolled in the FRCP, and all MTF inpatients receiving referred civilian care while remaining in an MTF inpatient status shall be promptly reimbursed and the patient shall not be required to bear any out of pocket expense. If such payment exceeds normally allowable amounts, the contractor shall allow the billed amount and reimburse the patient for charges on the claim. As a goal, no such claim should remain unpaid after 30 calendar days.

5.5.2. All other claims shall be subject to the appropriate TRICARE copayment and deductible requirements, and to TRICARE payment maximums. Claims for non-enrolled Medicare eligibles shall be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor.

5.6. In no case shall a uniformed service member who has acted in apparent good faith be required to incur out-of-pocket expenses or be subjected to ongoing collection action initiated by a civilian provider who has refused to abide by TRICARE requirements. (The determination whether a member has acted in good faith rests with the Uniformed Services.) For example, a provider might continue to pursue the service member by “balance billing” for amounts which are clearly in excess of the amount which he had previously agreed to accept as payment in full. When the contractor becomes aware of such situations, they shall initiate contact with the Uniformed SPOC ([Chapter 18, Addendum A](#)) so that action appropriate to the particular situation can be undertaken. On an exception basis, such action might include specific authorization by the Uniformed Service to pay additional amounts to the provider. In this instance, a waiver from the COO, TMA, or a designee, must be initiated by the Uniformed Service for authority to make payment in excess of CMAC or other applicable TRICARE payment ceilings. The contractor and the Government shall act in concert as promptly as possible to issue appropriate payment.

6.0. END OF PROCESSING

6.1. Explanation Of Benefits

An EOB shall be prepared for each supplemental health care claim processed, and copies sent to the provider and the patient in accordance with normal claims processing procedures. For all claims pertaining to civilian services rendered to an MTF inpatient and for all other claims for which the MTF has authorized supplemental health care payment, the EOB will include the following statement, “This is a supplemental health care claim, not a TRICARE claim. Questions concerning the processing of this claim must be addressed to the TRICARE Service Center.” Any standard TRICARE EOB messages which are applicable to the claim are also to be utilized, e.g., “No authorization on file.”

6.2. Appeal Rights

For supplemental health care claims, the appeals process in [Chapter 13](#), applies, as limited herein. If the care is still denied after completion of a review to verify that no miscoding or other clerical error took place and the MTF will not authorize the care in question, then the notification of the denial shall include the following statement: “If you disagree with this decision, please contact (insert MTF name here).” TRICARE appeal rights shall pertain to outpatient claims for treatment of TRICARE eligible patients.

7.0. CLAIMS PAYMENTS AND CONTRACTOR REIMBURSEMENT

7.1. Referred Care For MTF Inpatients

Providers, patients or Services (e.g., MTF) shall forward medical claims to the contractor for reimbursement. The contractor shall forward a single consolidated invoice, with accompanying claims data (only accepted or provisionally accepted by TED) on a monthly basis to the enrolling MTF and its paying office (Defense Finance and Accounting Service [DFAS]). MTFs will forward receiving reports after approval to the DFAS for payment to the contractor.

7.2. MTF Referred Outpatient Care

Providers, patients or Services (e.g., MTF) shall forward medical claims to the contractor for reimbursement. The contractor shall forward a single consolidated invoice with accompanying claims data (only accepted or provisionally accepted by TED), on a monthly basis to the enrolling MTF and its paying office (DFAS). The invoice shall contain claims for uniformed service members and non-TRICARE eligibles with an MTF authorization for payment under supplemental health care. DFAS shall pay the contractor based on approved invoices. Claims for Medicare eligibles will be returned to the submitting party for filing with the Medicare claims processor.

8.0. TED SUBMITTAL

The TED for each claim must reflect the appropriate data element values. The appropriate codes published in the TSM are to be used for supplemental health care claims.

9.0. REQUIRED REPORTS

Summary reports reflecting government dollars paid for supplemental health care claims shall be prepared and submitted to each Service Headquarters every month. Separate reports shall be produced for services rendered to Army National Guard members. All reports described below shall be submitted in electronic media in an Excel format. Payments for CCEP claims, TDRL claims, and for members enrolled in the FRCP shall each be reported separately. A separate report of payments on behalf of non-DoD patients shall also be prepared and forwarded to TMA, Managed Care Support Operations Branch. Summary and detailed reports (also reflecting government dollars paid) for each month will be prepared and submitted to each referring MTF. These reports will be submitted no later than the 15th calendar day of the month following the reporting period. SHCP and CCEP reports will reflect total care paid, and the total dollar amount contained in data elements ([paragraphs 9.1.1. through 9.1.3.](#)), will equal the total amount requested for reimbursement from TMA, Office of Contract Resource Management for each report. For those data elements in items ([paragraphs 9.1.1. through 9.1.3.](#)), which require a count, the contractor must ensure that no workload is double counted. Data elements to include in the reports are:

9.1. Summary Reports By Branch Of Service To Service HQ And TMA (COO)

9.1.1. Defense Medical Information System Identification (DMIS-ID) Code (PCM Location DMIS-ID (Enrollment) Code)

9.1.2. Total Number and Dollar Amount of Claims Paid

9.1.3. Inpatient Dollars Paid - Institutional

9.1.4. Inpatient Dollars Paid - Professional Services

9.1.5. Outpatient Dollars Paid - Clinic Visits (Professional and Ancillary Services)

9.1.6. Outpatient Dollars Paid - Ambulatory Surgeries/Procedures - Professional

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CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- 9.1.7. Outpatient Dollars Paid - Ambulatory Surgeries/Procedures - Institutional
- 9.1.8. Total Admissions/Dispositions
- 9.1.9. Total Bed Days/Length of Stay (LOS)
- 9.1.10. Total Ambulatory Surgeries/Procedures, including all Ancillary
- 9.1.11. Total Outpatient Visits, excluding Ambulatory Surgeries but including all Ancillary related to the outpatient visits
- 9.1.12. CPT Codes/DRG/ICD-9 Codes
- 9.1.13. Other items paid
- 9.2. Detailed Reports For Each MTF**
 - 9.2.1. Patient DMIS-ID Code (enrollment DMIS)
 - 9.2.2. Referring MTF's DMIS-ID code
 - 9.2.3. Patient Name/Social Security Number (SSN)
 - 9.2.4. Sponsor SSN
 - 9.2.5. Age/Sex/Beneficiary Category (ADSM, ADFM, NADSM, NADFM, TFL, TRICARE ineligible)
 - 9.2.6. MTF PCM (if available)
 - 9.2.7. Referring provider (if available)
 - 9.2.8. Civilian Provider's Name/Provider ID#
 - 9.2.9. Dates of Care (Outpatient or Inpatient Admission)
 - 9.2.10. Care End Date (FY - Month)
 - 9.2.11. Admitting Diagnoses (Primary/Secondary)
 - 9.2.12. Dispositioning Diagnoses (Primary/Secondary)
 - 9.2.13. CPT Codes/DRG/ICD-9 Codes Related to Inpatient Claim
 - 9.2.14. Total Bed Days/LOS (Inpatient)
 - 9.2.15. Inpatient Institutional \$ Paid
 - 9.2.16. Inpatient Professional \$ Paid

9.2.17. CPT Codes/ICD-9 Codes Related to Outpatient Claim (including Professional and Ancillary Services)

9.2.18. Outpatient Clinic \$ Paid (Including Professional and Ancillary Services)

9.2.19. CPT Codes/ICD-9 Codes Related to Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure Claim (including Professional and Ancillary Services)

9.2.20. Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure \$ Paid (Professional)

9.2.21. Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure \$ Paid (Institutional)

9.3. Additional Reports

9.3.1. The contractor shall produce monthly workload and timeliness reports for the SHCP. The reports shall cover the period beginning on the first day of the month and closing on the last day of the month. The reports are due on the 15th calendar day of the month following the month being reported.

9.3.2. The contractor shall prepare a cover letter when forwarding reports, which identifies the reports being forwarded, the period being reported, the date the cover letter is prepared by the contractor, and a contractor POC should there be any questions regarding the reports.

9.3.3. Workload Reports

9.3.3.1. The contractor shall prepare and submit a monthly SHCP claims workload report for each branch of service (to include Army National Guard separately), as well as one workload report which shows the cumulative totals for all services. The branch of service shall be determined by the service affiliation of the referring MTF and not by the branch of service of the active duty member. The following data shall be included in the workload reports:

- Beginning Inventory of Uncompleted Claims
- Total Number of New Claims Received
- Total Number of Claims Returned
- Total Number of Claims Processed to Completion
- Ending Inventory of Uncompleted Claims

NOTE: Ending inventory of uncompleted claims must equal the beginning inventory of uncompleted claims plus total number of new claims received minus total number of claims returned minus total number of claims processed to completion.

9.3.3.2. The contractor shall send a copy of the monthly Workload Reports to the TMA, Chief, Claims Operations Office and to the RD. The contractor shall also send a copy of each Service's monthly report to the respective Service Project Officer identified in [Chapter 18, Addendum A](#).

9.3.4. Timeliness Reports

9.3.4.1. The contractor shall prepare and submit a separate monthly cycle time and aging report for SHCP claims, containing the same elements and timeliness breakouts as submitted for other TRICARE claims.

9.3.4.2. The contractor shall send a copy of the SHCP Timeliness Reports to the RD; Chief Financial Officer, TMA; and to the Chief, Special Contracts and Operations Office, TMA.

9.4. SHCP Claims Listing

Throughout the period of the contract, the contractor shall have the ability to produce, when requested by TMA, a hardcopy listing of all SHCP claims processed to completion for any given month(s) to substantiate the contractor's SHCP vouchers to TMA (see [Chapter 18, Section 4](#)). The listing shall include the following data elements: referring DMIS-ID code, Internal Control Number (ICN), patient's SSN, and the date the claim was processed to completion. This list shall be presented in ascending DMIS code order.

10.0. CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES

10.1. Telephonic Inquiries

Inquiries relating to the SHCP need not be tracked nor reported separately from other inquiries received by the contractor. All inquiries to the contractor should come from MTFs/claims offices, the Service Project Officers or the TMA. In some instances, inquiries may come from Congressional offices, patients or providers. To facilitate this process, the contractor shall provide a specific telephone number, different from the public toll-free number, for inquiries related to the SHCP Claims Program. The line shall be operational and continuously staffed according to the hours and schedule specified in the contractor's TRICARE contract for toll-free and other service phone lines. It may be the same line as required in support of TPR under [Chapter 17](#) and may be the same line required under [Chapter 19](#). The telephone response standards of [Chapter 1, Section 3, paragraph 3.4](#) shall apply to SHCP telephonic inquiries.

10.1.1. Congressional Telephonic Inquiries

The contractor shall refer any congressional telephonic inquiries to the referring MTF if the inquiry is related to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim. If it is a general congressional inquiry regarding the SHCP claims program, the contractor shall respond or refer the caller as appropriate.

10.1.2. Provider And Other Telephonic Inquiries

The contractor shall refer any other telephonic inquiries it receives, including calls from the provider, service member or the MTF patient, to the referring MTF if the inquiry pertains to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim. The contractor shall respond as appropriate to general inquiries regarding the SHCP.

10.2. Written Inquiries

10.2.1. Congressional Written Inquiries

The contractor shall refer written congressional inquiries to the Service Project Officer of the referring MTF's branch of service if the inquiry is related to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim. When referring the inquiry to the Service Project Officer, the contractor shall attach a copy of all supporting documentation related to the inquiry. If it is a general congressional inquiry regarding the SHCP, the contractor shall refer the inquiry to the TMA. The contractor shall refer all congressional written inquiries within 72 hours of identifying the inquiry as relating to the SHCP. When referring the inquiry, the contractor shall also send a letter to the congressional office informing them of the action taken and providing them with the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity to which the congressional correspondence was transferred.

10.2.2. Provider And Service Member (Or MTF Patient) Written Inquiries

The contractor shall refer provider and service member or MTF patient written inquiries to the referring MTF if the inquiry pertains to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim, or to the caller's Service Project Officer if it is a general inquiry regarding the SHCP.

10.2.3. MTF Written Inquiries

The contractor shall provide a final written response to all written inquiries from the MTF within ten work days of the receipt of the inquiry.

11.0. DEDICATED SHCP UNIT

The contractor may at their discretion establish a dedicated unit for all contractor responsibilities related to processing SHCP claims and responding to inquiries about the SHCP. Regardless of the existence of a dedicated unit, the contractor shall designate a POC for Government inquiries related to the SHCP.

CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0. CLAIMS PROCESSING

1.1. The contractor may at its discretion establish a dedicated post office box to receive claims and correspondence related to the Supplemental Health Care Program (SHCP). This dedicated box, if established, may be the same post office box which has been established for handling TRICARE Prime Remote (*TPR*) and *Military Treatment Facility* (MTF) Referred Care claims, as discussed in [Chapters 17](#) and [18](#).

1.2. Regardless of who submits the claim, SHCP claims shall be processed using the standards in [Chapter 1](#), unless otherwise stated in this chapter. The claims tracking and retrieval requirements of [Chapter 1, Section 3, paragraph 2.1](#). apply equally to SHCP claims. The contractor for the region in which the patient resides shall process the claim to completion. Reports on the timeliness of processing SHCP claims, as required under [paragraph 11.0](#). are due to the Regional Directors (*RDs*) and *Service Point of Contact* (SPOC) no later than the 15th calendar day of the month following the reporting period. Claims for inpatient and outpatient medical services shall be processed to completion without application of a cost-share, copayment, or deductible. Non-Availability Statements (*NASs*) shall not be required. *The claims filing deadline outlined in Chapter 8, Section 3, paragraph 1.2. does not apply to SHCP claims.*

1.3. Claims for care provided under the national *Department of Defense* (DoD)/*Veterans Affairs* (VA) *Memorandum of Agreement* (MOA) for Spinal Cord Injury (*SCI*), Traumatic Brain Injury (*TBI*), and Blind Rehabilitation shall be processed in accordance with [Chapter 19, Section 2, paragraph 2.2](#).

2.0. FOREIGN CLAIMS PROCESSING

Process claims received by the contractor for patients covered by reciprocal host nation health care agreements in accordance with the current requirements of the *TRICARE Operations Manual* (*TOM*) and the *TRICARE Policy Manual* (*TPM*). Forward claims received for personnel permanently assigned to an overseas location to the appropriate overseas claims processor for processing in accordance with the *TPM*, [Chapter 12](#), TRICARE Overseas Program (*TOP*).

3.0. ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

The contractor shall perform the following screening steps to determine if a claim may be processed to completion under the provisions of this chapter:

3.1. Check For MTF Referral Authorization

If an MTF referral is on file, process the claim in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 18](#).

3.2. Check DEERS Status

If the patient is listed in the DEERS as direct care eligible, process the claim in accordance with [paragraph 5.0.](#), Types of Care, provided below. If, in the process of the DEERS check, the contractor determines the *Active Duty Service Member (ADSM)* is enrolled in [TPR](#), then the claim shall be processed as a [TPR](#) claim in accordance with [Chapter 17](#). The contractor for the region in which the member is enrolled shall process the claim to completion. If the ADSM is enrolled to an MTF, the claim shall be processed in accordance with [Chapter 18](#). If the ADSM is not enrolled (or is a member of the Reserve Component), the claim shall be processed in accordance with this chapter.

3.3. Check For SPOC Preauthorization

If a SPOC preauthorization exists, process the claim to completion in accordance with this chapter whether or not the patient is listed in DEERS.

3.4. Check Claim For Attached Documentation

If the patient is listed in DEERS as not direct care eligible, but the claim or its attached documentation indicates potential eligibility (e.g., military orders, commander's letter), pend the case and forward a copy of the claim and attached documentation to the SPOC for an eligibility determination.

3.5. National Guard and Reserve

Claims for National Guard or Reserve sponsors with treatment dates outside their eligibility dates cannot be automatically adjudicated. Claims for ineligible sponsors are to be suspended and routed to *Military Medical Support Office (MMSO)* for payment approval or denial. If a payment determination is not received within the 115th day of receipt, the claim is to be denied.

3.6. Criteria Not Met

If none of the conditions stated above are met, the claim may be returned uncontrolled to the submitting party in accordance with established procedures.

4.0. THIRD PARTY LIABILITY

Third Party Liability (TPL) processing requirements ([Chapter 11](#)) shall be applied to all claims covered by this chapter. However, adjudication action on claims will not be delayed awaiting completion of the requisite questionnaire and compilation of documentation. Instead, the claim will be processed to completion and the TPL documentation will be forwarded to the appropriate uniformed service claims office when complete.

5.0. TYPES OF CARE

Contractor staff shall receive and accept calls directly from *ADSMs* requesting authorization for care which has not been MTF referred. If the caller is requesting after hours authorization for care while physically present in the Prime service area of the MTF to which he/she is enrolled, the care shall be authorized in accordance with the *contractor*-MTF *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) established between the contractor and the local MTF. If the caller is traveling away from his/her duty station, the care shall be authorized if a prudent person would consider the care to be urgent or emergent. Callers seeking authorization for routine care shall be referred back to their MTF for instructions. Overseas enrollees shall be referred to the SPOC. The contractor shall send daily notifications to the *ADSMs'* enrolled MTF for all care authorized after hours according to locally established business rules.

5.1. Emergency Care (As Defined In The *TPM*)

Subsequent to the eligibility verification process described in [paragraph 5.0.](#), the contractor shall pay all emergency claims for eligible uniformed service members. If an emergency civilian hospitalization comes to the attention of the contractor, it shall be reported to the SPOC. The SPOC will have primary case management responsibility, including authorization of care and patient movement for all civilian hospitalizations.

5.2. Non-Emergent Care

Subsequent to eligibility verification as described in [paragraph 5.0.](#), the contractor shall verify whether the non-emergent medical civilian health care provided was already authorized by the SPOC or the contractor. If there is an authorization on file, the contractor shall process the claim to payment. If a required authorization is not on file for a non-enrollee, then the contractor will place the claim in a pending status and will forward copies of appropriate documentation to SPOC for determination. See [Chapter 19, Addendum B](#) for SPOC referral and review procedures.

5.2.1. If the SPOC authorizes care, the claim shall be processed for payment.

5.2.2. If the SPOC determines that the civilian health care was not authorized, the contractor shall follow normal TRICARE requirements for issuing Explanations of Benefits (EOBs) and summary vouchers.

5.3. Ancillary Services

A SPOC authorization for care includes authorization for any ancillary services related to the health care authorized.

6.0. COVERAGE

6.1. Normal TRICARE coverage limitations will not apply to services rendered to SHCP eligible uniformed service members covered by this chapter. Services that have been authorized by the SPOC will be covered regardless of whether they would have ordinarily been covered under TRICARE policy. Occasionally, care may be authorized which was not rendered by a TRICARE authorized provider. Contractors shall not make claims payments to sanctioned or suspended providers. (See [Chapter 14, Section 6.](#)) The claim shall be denied if a sanctioned or suspended provider bills for services. SPOCs do not have the authority to overturn the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) or Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provider exclusions. Customary TRICARE utilization review and utilization management requirements will not apply.

6.2. Unlike a normal TRICARE authorization, a SPOC authorization shall be deemed to constitute referral, authorization, eligibility verification, and direction to bypass provider certification and NAS rules. Contractors shall take measures as appropriate to enable them to distinguish between the two authorization types.

7.0. MEDICAL RECORDS

The current contract requirements for medical records shall also apply to ADSMs in this program. Narrative summaries and other documentation of care rendered (including laboratory reports and X-rays) shall be given to the ADSM for delivery to his/her PCM and inclusion in his/her military health record. The contractor shall be responsible for all administrative/copying costs. Under no circumstances shall the ADSM be charged for this documentation. Network providers shall be reimbursed for medical records photocopying and postage costs incurred at the rates established in their network provider participation agreements. Participating and non-participating providers will be reimbursed for medical records photocopying and postage costs on the basis of billed charges. ADSMs who have paid for copied records and applicable postage costs will be reimbursed for the full amount paid to ensure they have no out of pocket expenses. All providers and/or patients must submit a claim form, with the charges clearly identified, to the contractor for reimbursement. ADSM's claim forms should be accompanied by a receipt showing the amount paid.

8.0. REIMBURSEMENT

8.1. Allowable amounts are to be determined based upon the TRICARE payment reimbursement methodology applicable to the services reflected on the claim (e.g., *Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs)*, mental health per diem, CHAMPUS Maximum Allowable Charge (CMAC), Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), or TRICARE network provider discount). Reimbursement for services not ordinarily covered by TRICARE and/or rendered by a provider who cannot be a TRICARE authorized provider shall be at billed amounts. Cost sharing and deductibles shall not be applied to SHCP claims.

8.2. Claims with codes on the TRICARE inpatient only list performed in an outpatient setting will be denied, except in those situations where the beneficiary dies in an emergency room prior to admission. Reference the *TRICARE Reimbursement Manual (TRM)*, Chapter 13, Section 2, paragraph III.D. Professional providers may submit with modifier CA. No bypass authority is authorized for inpatient only procedure editing. Bypass authority is authorized for codes contained on the No Government Pay List (NGPL) when the service is authorized by the MTF.

8.3. Pending development and implementation of recently enacted legislative authority to waive CMACs under TRICARE, the following interim procedures shall be followed when necessary to assure adequate availability of health care to ADSMs under SHCP. If required services are not available from a network or participating provider within the medically appropriate time frame, the contractor shall arrange for care with a non-participating provider subject to the normal reimbursement rules. The contractor initially shall make every effort to obtain the provider's agreement to accept, as payment in full, a rate within the one 100% of CMAC limitation. If this is not feasible, the contractor shall make every effort to obtain the provider's agreement to accept, as payment in full, a rate between 100 and 115% of CMAC. If the latter is not feasible, the contractor shall determine the lowest acceptable rate that the provider will accept. The contractor shall then request a waiver of CMAC limitation from the RD, as the designee of the Chief Operating Officer (COO), TMA, before patient referral is made to ensure that the patient does not bear any out-of-pocket expense. The waiver request shall include the patient name, ADSM's location, services requested (*Current Procedural Terminology, 4th Edition (CPT-4)*) codes, CMAC rate, billed charge, and anticipated negotiated rate. The contractor must obtain approval from the RD before the negotiation can be concluded. The contractor shall ensure that the approved payment is annotated in the authorization/claims processing system, and that payment is issued directly to the provider, unless there is information presented that the ADSM has personally paid the provider.

8.4. Eligible uniformed service members who have been required by the provider to make "up front" payment at the time services are rendered will be required to submit a claim to the contractor with an explanation and proof of such payment. If the claim is payable without SPOC review the contractor shall allow the billed amount and reimburse the ADSM for charges on the claim. If the claim requires SPOC review the contractor shall pend the claim to the SPOC for determination. If the SPOC authorizes the care the contractor shall allow the billed amount and reimburse the ADSM for charges on the claim.

8.5. In no case shall a uniformed service member be subjected to "balance billing" or ongoing collection action by a civilian provider for emergency or authorized care. If the contractor becomes aware of such situations that they cannot resolve they shall pend the file and forward the issue to the SPOC for determination. The SPOC will issue an authorization to the contractor for payments in excess of CMAC or other applicable TRICARE payment ceilings, provided the SPOC has requested and has been granted a waiver from the COO, TMA, or designee.

9.0. END OF PROCESSING

9.1. EOB

An appropriate EOB shall be prepared for each supplemental health care claim processed, and copies sent to the provider and the patient (uniformed service member) in accordance with normal claims processing procedures. The EOB will also include the following statement, "This is a supplemental health care claim, not a TRICARE claim. Questions concerning the processing of this claim must be addressed to the SPOC." Any standard TRICARE EOB messages which are applicable to the claim are also to be utilized, e.g., "No authorization on file."

9.2. Appeal Process

9.2.1. If the contractor, at the direction of the SPOC, denies authorization of, or authorization for reimbursement, for an ADSM's health care services, the contractor shall, on the EOB or other appropriate document, furnish the ADSM with clear guidance for requesting a reconsideration from or filing an appeal with the SPOC. The SPOC will handle only those issues that involve SPOC denials of authorization or authorization for reimbursement. The contractor shall handle allowable charge issues, grievances, etc.

9.2.2. An ADSM will appeal SPOC denials of authorization or authorization for reimbursement through the SPOC--not through the contractor. If the ADSM disagrees with a denial, the first level of appeal will be through the SPOC who will coordinate the appeal with the appropriate RD. The ADSM may initiate the appeal by contacting his/her SPOC or by calling the MMSO at 1-888-647-6676. If the SPOC upholds the denial, the SPOC will notify the ADSM of further appeal rights with the appropriate Surgeon General's office. If the denial is overturned at any level, the SPOC will notify the contractor and the ADSM.

9.2.3. The contractor shall forward all written inquiries and correspondence related to SPOC denials of authorization or authorization for reimbursement to the appropriate SPOC. The contractor shall refer telephonic inquiries related to SPOC denials to 1-888-MHS-MMSO.

10.0. TED VOUCHER SUBMITTAL

The contractor shall report the SHCP claims on TED vouchers according to the provisions in [Chapter 3, Section 3](#).

11.0. REPORTS FOR SHCP

11.1. Required Reports

11.1.1. Reports reflecting government dollars paid for all SHCP claims will be prepared and submitted to the SPOC and each RD every month by branch of service. The contractor shall produce separate reports for services furnished to members of the Army National Guard and a separate report for services rendered to members of the Air Force National Guard. Contractors shall submit all reports described below in electronic media in an Excel format. The contractor shall also prepare a separate report of payment on behalf of non-DoD patients. The contractor shall forward this report to TMA, Managed Care Support Operations

Branch. The contractor shall submit these reports no later than the 15th calendar day of the month following the reporting period. These reports will reflect total care paid, and the total dollar amount contained in data elements [paragraphs 11.1.3.1. through 11.1.3.13.](#), and will equal the total amount submitted to TMA, Contract Resource Management Directorate as vouchers and approved for check release. For those data elements in items [paragraphs 11.1.3.1. through 11.1.3.13.](#), which require a count, the contractor must ensure that no workload is double-counted.

11.1.2. Aggregated quarterly reports will be prepared and submitted to each Service Headquarters. These reports will be submitted no later than the 15th calendar day of the month following the close of each fiscal quarter.

11.1.3. Data elements to include in the reports are:

11.1.3.1. DMIS ID Code - enrollment MTF

11.1.3.2. Total Number and Dollar Amount of Claims Paid

11.1.3.3. Inpatient Dollars Paid - Institutional

11.1.3.4. Inpatient Dollars Paid - Professional Services

11.1.3.5. Outpatient Dollars Paid - Clinic Visits (Professional and Ancillary Services)

11.1.3.6. Outpatient Dollars Paid - Ambulatory Surgeries/ Procedures - Professional Services

11.1.3.7. Outpatient Dollars Paid - Ambulatory Surgeries/ Procedures - Institutional

11.1.3.8. Total Admissions/Dispositions

11.1.3.9. Total Bed Days/LOS

11.1.3.10. Total Ambulatory Surgeries/Procedures, including all Ancillary

11.1.3.11. Total Outpatient Visits, Excluding Ambulatory Surgeries but including all Ancillary related to the outpatient visits

11.1.3.12. CPT Codes/DRG/*International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision (ICD-9)* Codes

11.1.3.13. Other Items Paid

11.2. Additional Reports

The contractor shall produce monthly workload and timeliness reports for the SHCP. The reports cover the period beginning on the first day of the month and closing on the last day of the month. The reports are due on the 15th calendar day of the month following the month being reported. The contractor shall prepare a cover letter when forwarding reports,

which shall identify the reports being forwarded, the period being reported, the date the cover letter is prepared by the contractor, and a contractor point of contact should there be any questions regarding the reports.

11.2.1. Workload Reports

The contractor shall prepare and submit a monthly SHCP claims workload report for each branch of service (to include Army National Guard, and Air Force National Guard separately), as well as one workload report which shows the cumulative totals for all services. The contractor shall send a copy of the Workload Reports to the TMA, Chief, Special Contracts and Operations Office. The contractor shall also send a copy of each Service's monthly report to the respective Service Project Officer identified in [Chapter 19, Addendum A](#) and to the SPOC. The following data shall be included in the workload reports:

- Beginning Inventory of Uncompleted Claims
- Total Number of New Claims Received
- Total Number of Claims Returned
- Total Number of Claims Processed to Completion
- Ending Inventory of Uncompleted Claims

NOTE: Ending inventory of uncompleted claims must equal the beginning inventory of uncompleted claims plus total number of new claims received minus total number of claims returned minus total number of claims processed to completion.

11.2.2. Timeliness Reports

The contractor shall prepare and submit a separate monthly cycle time and aging report for SHCP claims, containing the same elements and timeliness breakouts as submitted for other TRICARE claims. The contractor shall send a copy of the SHCP Timeliness Reports to the [RDs](#); Chief Financial Officer ([CFO](#)), TMA; and to the Chief, Special Contracts and Operations Office, TMA.

11.2.3. Aging Claims Report

The government intends to take action on all referrals to the SPOC as quickly as possible. To support this objective, the SPOC must be kept apprised of those claims on which the contractor cannot take further action until the SPOC has completed its reviews and approvals. Therefore, no less frequently than once per week, the contractor shall forward to the SPOC a report listing those claims which have been pended awaiting SPOC action, and the age of those claims. The age breakouts reported in that report may be based upon the same categories as reported in the monthly cycle time and aging reports sent to TMA ([Chapter 15, Addendum A, Figure 15-A-2](#)). In the alternative, they may be configured based upon existing workload management reports used internally by the contractor or its subcontractor. The weekly report to the SPOC may consist simply of a copy of the relevant portion of such an internal report if the contractor or its subcontractor currently utilizes one.

11.2.4. SHCP Claims Listing

Throughout the period of the contract, the contractor shall have the ability to produce, when requested by TMA, a hardcopy listing of all SHCP claims processed to completion for any given month(s) to substantiate the contractors SHCP vouchers to TMA. The listing shall include the following data elements: referring *Defense Medical Information System Identification (DMIS-ID)* code, *Internal Control Number (ICN)*, patient's *Social Security Number (SSN)*, and the date the claim was processed to completion. This list shall be presented in ascending DMIS code order.

12.0. CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES

12.1. Telephonic Inquiries

Inquiries relating to the SHCP need not be tracked nor reported separately from other inquiries received by the contractor. All inquiries to the contractor should come from the MTFs/claims offices, the Service Project Officers, the TMA, or SPOC. However, inquiries may be received from congressional representatives, providers and/or patients. To facilitate this process, the contractor shall provide a specific telephone number, different from the public toll-free number, for inquiries related to the SHCP Claims Program. The line shall be operational and continuously staffed according to the hours and schedule specified in the contractor's TRICARE contract for toll-free and other service phone lines. It may be the same line as required in support of TPR under Chapter 17 and may be the same line required under Chapter 18. The telephone response standards of Chapter 1, Section 3, paragraph 3.4. shall apply to SHCP telephonic inquiries.

12.1.1. Congressional Telephonic Inquiries

The contractor shall refer any congressional telephonic inquiries it receives to the SPOC if the inquiry is related to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim or episode of treatment. If it is a general congressional inquiry regarding the SHCP claims program, the contractor shall respond or refer the caller as appropriate.

12.1.2. Provider And Other Telephonic Inquiries

The contractor shall refer provider and any other telephonic inquiries it receives, including calls from the Service member to the SPOC if the inquiry is related to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim. The contractor shall respond as appropriate to general inquiries regarding the SHCP.

12.2. Written Inquiries

12.2.1. Congressional Written Inquiries

The contractor shall refer written congressional inquiries to the SPOC if the inquiry is related to the authorization or non-authorization of a specific claim or episode of treatment. When referring the inquiry, the contractor shall attach a copy of all supporting documentation related to the inquiry. If it is a general congressional inquiry regarding the SHCP, the contractor shall refer the inquiry to the TMA. The contractor shall refer all

congressional written inquiries within 72 hours of identifying the inquiry as relating to the SHCP. When referring the inquiry, the contractor shall also send a letter to the congressional office informing them of the action taken and providing them with the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity to which the congressional correspondence was transferred.

12.2.2. Provider And Service Member (Or MTF Patient) Written Inquiries

The contractor shall refer provider and service member written inquiries to the SPOC.

12.2.3. MTF Written Inquiries

The contractor shall refer all written inquiries from the MTF to the SPOC upon receipt of the inquiry.

13.0. DEDICATED SHCP UNIT

The contractor may at their discretion establish a dedicated unit for all contractor responsibilities related to processing SHCP claims and responding to inquiries about the SHCP. Regardless of the existence of a dedicated unit, the contractor shall designate a point of contact for Government inquiries related to the SHCP.