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CHANGE 158
6010.56-M
DECEMBER 3, 2015

PUBLICATIONS SYSTEM CHANGE TRANSMITTAL
FOR
TRICARE OPERATIONS MANUAL (TOM), FEBRUARY 2008

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

CHANGE TITLE: PHARMACY WEBSITE UPDATES

CONREQ: 17511

PAGE CHANGE(S): See page 2.

SUMMARY OF CHANGE(S): This change updates obsolete web links to the Formulary Search Tool, TRICARE For Life Drug List, and Specialty Drug List.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 3, 2015.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: December 3, 2015.

This change is made in conjunction with Feb 2008 TPM, Change No. 148.

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DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD,
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Date: 2015.11.30 11:43:47 -0700

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ATTACHMENT(S): 4 PAGES
DISTRIBUTION: 6010.56-M

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

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REMOVE PAGE(S)

CHAPTER 18

Section 16, pages 1 and 2

CHAPTER 23

Section 1, pages 1 and 2

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Section 16, pages 1 and 2

Section 1, pages 1 and 2

EXPIRED As Of September 30, 2015 - Pilot Program for Refills of Maintenance Medications for TRICARE For Life (TFL) Beneficiaries through the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP)

1.0 PURPOSE

This pilot program will allow the Department of Defense (DoD) to evaluate potential cost savings by shifting a portion of the TRICARE for Life (TFL) retail prescription refills to the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP).

2.0 BACKGROUND

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, 70 million prescriptions were filled for TRICARE beneficiaries through the TRICARE retail pharmacy benefit at a net cost of \$3.8 billion to the government. Of those prescriptions, 33 million or 47% were filled for TFL beneficiaries at a cost of \$2.2 billion to the government. On average, the government pays 17% less for maintenance medications filled at TMOP than through the retail program. There is potential for significant savings to the government by shifting a portion of the TFL prescription refills to TMOP.

3.0 POLICY AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1 The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2013 establishes a pilot program requiring TFL beneficiaries to obtain retail prescription refills for select maintenance medications from the TMOP. TFL beneficiaries are not restricted from using the **Military Treatment Facility (MTF)** for prescription fills.

3.2 TFL beneficiaries are identified per [Chapter 20, Section 1](#). Active Duty (AD), Active Duty Family Members (ADFM), retirees and their family members are not required to participate in this program. TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) TFL beneficiaries, with the exception of those beneficiaries residing in the U.S. territories, may not be eligible for this pilot program. In order to be eligible they need to be residing in a country that allows use of TMOP, have prescriptions written by a U.S. licensed provider, and have an APO/FPO mailing address.

3.3 Maintenance medications are defined as medications prescribed for a chronic, long-term condition that is taken on a regular, recurring basis. Those maintenance medications which are clinically appropriate and cost-effective to dispense at TMOP will be included in the program as select maintenance medications.

3.4 A refill is defined as either a subsequent filling of an original prescription under the same prescription number (or other authorization as the original prescription), or a new original

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prescription for the same medication, strength and form issued at or near the end date of an earlier prescription.

3.5 Defense Health Agency (DHA) will establish, maintain, and periodically revise and update a list of select maintenance medications accessible at <http://www.health.mil/SelectDrugList> and by telephone through the pharmacy contractors call center.

3.6 The NDAA authorizes a waiver of the mail order requirement based on patient needs and other appropriate circumstances. There is a blanket waiver for prescription medications that are for acute care needs. There is also a blanket waiver for prescriptions covered by Other Health Insurance (OHI). This waiver is obtained through an administrative override request to the TRICARE pharmacy contractor under procedures established by the Director, DHA.

3.7 The pharmacy contractor will notify beneficiaries of the new rules and the mechanisms which allow them to receive adequate medication during their transition to TMOP.

3.8 The pharmacy contractor will provide a toll free number to assist beneficiaries in transferring their prescriptions from retail pharmacies to TMOP.

3.9 Beneficiaries will be advised that they may receive up to two, 30-day fills at a retail pharmacy while they transition their prescription. The beneficiary will be contacted after each of these two fills and advised that the prescription must be transferred. Requests for a third fill at retail will be blocked and the beneficiary advised to call the pharmacy contractor for assistance.

3.10 Beneficiaries may opt out of the pilot program after one year of participation. The one year participation is calculated based on the first date of service (after program implementation) the beneficiary has a maintenance medication prescription filled at TMOP. The beneficiary may exercise his or her right to opt out of the program by contacting the pharmacy contractor. Following an opt out, the beneficiary may obtain prescriptions from a retail pharmacy, subject to the normal limitations and procedures under the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits Program.

4.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

This demonstration expires effective September 30, 2015. The NDAA FY 2015, Section 702 mandates beneficiaries to obtain select brand name maintenance medications from the TMOP or the MTF pharmacy beginning October 1, 2015 (see TRICARE Policy Manual (TPM), [Chapter 8, Section 9.1](#)).

- END -

General

1.0 GENERAL

The TRICARE Pharmacy (TPharm) Benefits Program offers worldwide services through:

- Direct Care (DC) pharmacies located at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs);
- Retail network pharmacies;
- A Mail Order Pharmacy (MOP) program including specialty pharmacy services; and
- Retail non-network pharmacies.

The requirements/guidelines in this chapter apply only to the TPharm contractor.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

2.1 The TPharm Benefits Program is available to all TRICARE eligible beneficiaries, including Uniformed Service members, TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) enrollees, TRICARE Dual Eligibles, and TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) members. Eligible beneficiaries need not enroll in order to use the pharmacy program. The contractor will use the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to verify TRICARE eligibility prior to dispensing pharmaceuticals (or paying any claim) for all beneficiaries.

2.2 Foreign Force Members (FFMs) and their dependents from countries that are party to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), or Partnership For Peace (PFP) SOFA are eligible to receive pharmaceuticals or Durable Medical Equipment (DME) dispensed through retail pharmacies subject to the same rules regarding payment as are applicable to U.S. active duty members and dependents of active duty members using the TRICARE Standard/CHAMPUS program. Refer to www.tricare.mil/eligibility to verify coverage.

2.3 Guard or service members who are injured or become ill while serving on active duty or performing official drills with their unit may be eligible for continued care/treatment associated with the specific episode of care once their active duty or drill status has terminated. Documentation from Military Medical Support Office (MMSO) will serve as proof of eligibility and pharmaceutical claims will be processed for reimbursement. MMSO, per [Chapter 17, Section 2, paragraph 1.2](#), has authority to approve claims for drugs not covered under standard benefit guidelines.

3.0 APPLICABILITY OF TRICARE REQUIREMENTS

Unless waived or superseded by the provisions of this chapter or the contract, all normal TRICARE requirements set forth in the TRICARE Operations Manual (TOM), TRICARE Policy Manual (TPM), TRICARE Reimbursement Manual (TRM), and TRICARE Systems Manual (TSM) apply. Sections or language in these Manuals that obviously have no direct application to the pharmacy contractor

do not apply (e.g., requirements related to enrolling beneficiaries in TRICARE Prime, requirements related to medical benefit determinations, etc.).

4.0 PERFORMANCE/PROCESSING STANDARDS

Performance standards for the TPharm Benefits Program are located in Section C of the contract. Additionally, the contractor shall comply with the TRICARE Encounter Data (TED) timeliness and TED accuracy standards included in [Chapter 1, Section 3](#).

5.0 SPECIALTY PHARMACEUTICALS

Pharmaceuticals eligible for specialty care services under the pharmacy contract are listed <http://health.mil/SpecialtyDrugList>.

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