

PRIME AND STATUS CHANGES

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I. POLICY

A. When a beneficiary's TRICARE eligibility status changes, eligibility for TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Prime benefits may also change.

B. When TRICARE eligibility ends, eligibility for TOP Prime ceases.

C. For active duty family members, single enrollment can be changed to family at any time during the TOP enrollment period. A new TOP enrollment period shall be established for the family.

D. In cases of a change from single status to family based on the birth of a child or adoption, the new family member of the Prime enrollee will be considered enrolled as of the day of birth or adoption and given up to 120 days to decide whether to continue Prime or disenroll the child. During the first 120 days the Managed Care Support Contractor (MCSC) shall consider the newborn as enrolled. If the child/newborn is not enrolled in Prime by the 121st day, the child/newborn reverts to Standard. For newborns and newly adopted children who are enrolled under this provision, Point of Service cost-sharing does not apply through the 120th day or until an enrollment decision is made by a responsible representative, whichever is earlier. All services shall be processed under TOP Prime even in the absence of referrals or authorizations.

NOTE: The automatic enrollment in TOP Prime of a new family member does not apply in the case of a reservist who has been called to active duty for a period of less than 30 days, since the dependents of the reservist are not eligible to enroll in TOP Prime.

E. For those newborns and adoptees who are covered under the 120 day "deemed enrollment" benefit, process these claims as civilian Prime for this period. If the newborn or adoptee is formally enrolled during this period, process using enrollment status. If the newborn or adoptee is not formally enrolled during the 120 day calendar day period, at the end of the 120th calendar day period, the contractor shall process all claims as a non-enrolled beneficiary, applying the appropriate TRICARE cost-shares and deductibles.

F. TOP ADFM may disenroll from TOP Prime at any time if the enrollee is moving from OCONUS to CONUS or is a demobilized reservist. All other voluntary disenrollments require approval of the Regional Director.

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 12, SECTION 3.3

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G. For more information on status changes related to retirees, family members of retirees, family members of deceased active duty members, etc., refer to [Chapter 10, Section 3.1](#).

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