

ELIGIBILITY - GENERAL

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I. POLICY

A. ECHO benefits are available only to the following categories of TRICARE eligible beneficiaries with a qualifying condition:

1. A spouse, dependent child, or unmarried person (as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1072(2)(I)) whose sponsor is an active duty member of one of the Uniformed Services of the United States, including members of the Reserve Component (RC) activated for a period of more than 30 days.

2. A spouse, dependent child, or unmarried person (as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1072(2)(I)) whose sponsor is a former member of a Uniformed Service of the United States when such spouse, child, or unmarried person is the victim of physical or emotional abuse. (Benefits are limited to the period that the abused dependent is in receipt of transitional compensation under 10 U.S.C. 1059.)

3. A Transitional Survivor as defined in Chapter 10, Section 7.1.

4. A spouse, dependent child, or unmarried person who is receiving ECHO benefits at the time the sponsor dies and the sponsor was eligible at the time of death for receipt of hostile-fire pay or died as a result of a disease or injury incurred while eligible for such pay.

5. A spouse, dependent child, or unmarried person (as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1072(2)(I)) who is eligible for continued TRICARE medical benefits through the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP). See Chapter 10, Section 5.1.

B. Eligibility for ECHO benefits ceases as of 12:01 a.m. of the day following the day of the earliest occurrence of the following events:

1. The sponsor ceases to be an active duty member for any reason other than death;
or

2. Eligibility based upon the abused dependent provisions of paragraph I.A.2. expires; or

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3. Eligibility based on the deceased sponsor provisions of paragraphs I.A.3. or 4. expires; or

4. Eligibility based upon a beneficiary's participation in the TAMP program ends; or

5. The Managed Care Support Contractor (MCSC) or the TRICARE Area Office (TAO) Director determines that the beneficiary no longer has a ECHO qualifying condition.

C. The MCSC or the TAO Directors will notify the beneficiary in writing of the results of an eligibility determination.

D. A determination that a TRICARE beneficiary is not eligible for the ECHO is considered a factual determination based on a requirement of the law or regulation and as such is not appealable. Denial of ECHO services and supplies to an ineligible beneficiary is not appealable.

II. EXCLUSION

NATO family members are not eligible for benefits through the ECHO.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE September 1, 2005.

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