

Reimbursement Of Certain Prime Travel Expenses For Specialty Care Over 100 Miles Away

Issue Date: December 21, 2001

Authority: [32 CFR 199.17\(n\)\(2\)\(vi\)](#); JFTR, Ch7, Part Y; Public Law 110-181 Section 1632 (which amended 10 USC 1074i)

1.0 POLICY

1.1 TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) enrollees referred for necessary specialty care over 100 miles from their Primary Care Manager's (PCM's) office to the nearest specialist's office may be eligible to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. Entitlement is limited to those specialty referrals when no other specialist (i.e., Military Treatment Facility (MTF), network or non-network specialists) is available within 100 miles of the PCM's office. The only exception is when the beneficiary agrees to a referral to a center of excellence or MTF. Travel orders and reimbursement are also authorized for one non-medical attendant to accompany a non-active duty TRICARE Prime patient referred for medically necessary specialty care more than 100 miles from the patient's PCM location.

1.2 MTFs will be responsible for validation of travel expense entitlement and issuing travel orders for specialty referrals issued by military PCMs, while the Regional Directors (RDs) or designated government representatives will assume responsibility for travel entitlement determinations and orders for specialty referrals from civilian PCMs. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR). The Managed Care Support Contractors (MCSCs) will refer civilian travel requests for MTF-enrolled **Prime** beneficiaries to the MTFs and civilian-enrolled **Prime beneficiary** requests to the RD or designated government representative for validation, orders and payment if it appears that the beneficiary may be entitled to the new travel benefit. Beneficiaries with questions about the Prime travel benefit and the non-medical attendant entitlement should contact their local MTF or RD travel representative on Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordination (BCAC) for **information and** assistance. Telephone numbers and addresses for BCAC are available on the TRICARE web site at <http://www.tricare.mil>.

1.3 Similarly, when a retired member with a combat-related disability, not enrolled in TRICARE Prime, is referred by a Primary Care Provider (PCP) for follow-on specialty care relating to that particular disability, more than 100 miles from where the PCP provides services to the qualified member, the patient may be eligible to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. The TRICARE Regional Office (TRO) located in the region in which the retiree resides determines if the specialty care is more than 100 miles from the provider's office. Travel reimbursement is also authorized for one non-medical attendant to accompany such retiree referred for specialty care. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the JFTR. The MCSC will refer inquiries about travel reimbursement for retirees with combat-related disabilities to the RD travel representative or BCAC for further information and assistance.

TRICARE Reimbursement Manual 6010.58-M, February 1, 2008

Chapter 1, Section 30

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2.0 EFFECTIVE DATES

2.1 October 30, 2000, for TRICARE Prime enrollees.

2.2 January 1, 2008, for retirees with a combat-related disability.

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