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TRICARE  
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

PCSIB

CHANGE 39  
7950.2-M  
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**PUBLICATIONS SYSTEM CHANGE TRANSMITTAL  
FOR  
TRICARE SYSTEMS MANUAL (TSM), FEBRUARY 2008**

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

**CHANGE TITLE:** ADDITION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD) BENEFITS NUMBER (DBN)

**CONREQ:** 15648

**PAGE CHANGE(S):** See page 2.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGE(S):** This change will provide clarification on the use of the DBN, which is one of the two identifiers to be printed on the back of new identification cards in place of the Social Security Number (SSN). This change effort runs separate from similar DBN-related efforts that will need to occur in the other manuals.

**EFFECTIVE AND IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Upon direction of the Contracting Officer.

  
Jack Arendale  
Chief, Purchased Care Systems  
Integration Branch

**ATTACHMENT(S):** 2 PAGES  
**DISTRIBUTION:** 7950.2-M

**CHANGE 39**  
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**REMOVE PAGE(S)**

**CHAPTER 3**

Section 1.2, pages 5 and 6

**INSERT PAGE(S)**

Section 1.2, pages 5 and 6

## **6.2 Sponsor And Family Member Roles**

A sponsor is any person who, as a direct affiliate or member of an organization within the DoD, is entitled to benefits from the DoD and who, through that affiliation or membership, may entitle his or her family members to benefits. Members of non-DoD organizations whose employees are authorized DoD benefits are also sponsors, and often accord eligibility to their family members.

Unremarried former spouses who meet eligibility requirements are considered as sponsors and are identified by their individual SSN. TRICARE entitlement for an unremarried former spouse is ended with the existence of an employer sponsored health plan. Contractors can identify an unremarried former spouse on the DEERS claims response from a discreet member category code that indicates the type of DoD Beneficiary. (See the DEERS Data Dictionary for Member Category Codes.) There is a unique member category code for each category of unremarried former spouse. If a DEERS claims response shows a person to be an unremarried former spouse (via the member category code) and the claim shows the possible existence of an employer sponsored health plan, the contractor shall proceed in accordance with the TRICARE Policy Manual (TPM).

Abused dependents also have a distinct member category code indicating their status. The presence of OHI does not remove an abused dependent's entitlement to TRICARE (see 32 CFR 199).

DEERS defines which relationships to sponsors make individual family members eligible for benefits. Some restrictions that influence the definition of a child family member include age, degree of support by the sponsor, physical disability, and educational status.

## **6.3 Beneficiary Role - Multiple Entitlements/Dual Eligibility**

DEERS considers both sponsors and family members as beneficiaries (i.e., recipients of DoD benefits). The role of beneficiary is ambiguous, a person may be entitled to DoD benefits via his or her simultaneous association to more than one sponsor or by being a sponsor in one family while being a member of another. An example is a person that is a family member in two sponsored families at the same time. This situation occurs when both spouses in a family are sponsors. This condition is known as multiple entitlements. DEERS supports multiple entitlements by not only storing persons but any combination of their current and past associations.

Entitlement periods may be sequential, such as when a son or daughter of a sponsor joins a Uniformed Service and he or she becomes a sponsor. Becoming a sponsor terminates the individual's previous eligibility for benefits as a family member.

In some cases, the roles leading to multiple entitlements may change back and forth. For example, a child of married reservists who move in and out of active duty assignments may have transitory periods of entitlement to medical benefits under each sponsor. Each sponsor in this family has the potential to provide medical benefits for the family member (child) for various periods of time. Therefore, this multiple-entitled child may need to be changed back and forth between the two sponsor spouses as the situation changes. The concept of dual eligibility occurs when multiple entitlements are concurrent. This situation can occur when a sponsor is both a retired sponsor and a civil servant on overseas assignment. The beneficiary would have a coverage plan as the retired sponsor and another coverage plan as the civil servant. Hence, dual eligibility results when a person is associated with more than one DoD affiliation.

All instances of family membership and/or sponsorship are stored under unique identifiers. These identifiers are associated to a family as the DEERS Family Identifier (nine digit DEERS-assigned number) and each member of the family, including the sponsor, is further delineated by the DEERS Beneficiary Identifier (two digit DEERS-assigned number within each DEERS Family Identifier). All systems storing benefits or enrollment information about a beneficiary must do so by DEERS Family Identifier and DEERS Beneficiary Identifier (in combination known as the DEERS ID **as well as the DoD Benefits Number (DBN)** for a beneficiary). All information about TRICARE enrollments and policies to and from NED in DEERS and the regional contractors must be done using this Identifier. Updates of all other secondary attributes including SSN, Name, or DOB are exchanged using this DEERS ID, **which is also known as the DBN**, as **the** primary means of identification.

#### **6.4 Patient Role**

The patient role results from an association or interaction between a person and a DoD Health Care delivery provider. It is important to note that a person is not required to be currently eligible for DoD benefits to be considered a patient. For example, the patient may have been a beneficiary in the past but is no longer eligible for DoD benefits. In certain cases, an individual who is not an authorized DoD beneficiary may be treated in an emergency situation at a DoD Military Treatment Facility (MTF), and is therefore a patient. Persons on the Person Data Repository (PDR) of DEERS and on clinical systems within the DoD are identified in the patient role by the Patient Identifier. All clinical and reporting data must be exchanged using this identifier. TRICARE contractors must store this identifier associated with each enrollee on their database.

#### **6.5 Beneficiary Roles Within HCDPs**

##### **6.5.1 Subscriber Role**

A subscriber is an individual who is the primary holder of a DoD policy (i.e., the primary holder of a DoD entitlement) for health care benefits based on his or her affiliation with the DoD. The subscriber is the sponsor.

##### **6.5.2 Insured Role**

An insured is an individual who is covered by a Uniformed Services health benefits program (i.e., an HCDP) for medical coverage. The individual is entitled to these programs based upon his or her association to a subscriber. A person may be both a subscriber and an insured. For example, under TRICARE Prime Individual Coverage for Retired Sponsors and Family Members, the sponsor is both the subscriber and an insured. However, other sponsors may be a subscriber and not be an insured. For example, a sponsor on active duty may be the subscriber for his or her family members that are insured under TRICARE Prime Family Coverage for Active Duty Family Members (ADFM's).

#### **6.6 Sponsor, Subscriber, Beneficiary, And Insured Roles**

As a sponsor, the person may also be the subscriber who holds the DoD "policy" for health care benefits. As a beneficiary, the person may also be an insured who is covered by a DoD "policy" for health care benefits.