



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DASG-HSZ

0 1 JUN 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands
Commander, USARC, ATTN: Surgeon
Commander, Army National Guard, ATTN: Surgeon

SUBJECT: Access to Healthcare for Demobilized Members of the Reserve Component (RC)

1. We are concerned that RC Soldiers being demobilized may be confused about their healthcare benefits and how to appropriately use them. This memorandum describes the benefit for line of duty (LOD) healthcare and Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) healthcare benefits.

2. LOD Treatment of RC Soldiers:

a. RC Soldiers are eligible for treatment of illness or injuries incurred in the line of duty at no cost to the Soldier. Demobilized RC Soldiers, residing in remote areas and seeking treatment for a LOD injury or illness, should contact their full-time Reserve unit staff to request authorization for civilian care from the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO). Demobilized RC Soldiers living near a military hospital or clinic should contact their full-time Reserve unit staff to obtain care through the Military Treatment Facility (MTF) for LOD injuries or illnesses. The point of contact within the MTF is the Patient Administration Division.

b. A medical emergency or initial episode of care involving LOD illness or injury does not require pre-authorization from MMSO. However, authorization will be required before claims for civilian treatment can be paid. The full-time Reserve unit staff should call the MMSO to make sure that required documentation has been completed and authorizations have been retroactively provided.

c. The RC Soldier's full-time RC unit staff should use the instruction at the MMSO website: <http://mms0.med.navy.mil> to authorize civilian medical care for Soldiers in a remote area. If there are questions concerning the RC instructions for obtaining civilian care in a remote area, the RC unit staff may call the MMSO for assistance; the number is 1-888-MHS-MMSO (1-888-647-6676).

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3. Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP).

a. RC Soldiers (and their families), demobilized after ordered to active duty for 30 days or more in support of a contingency operation, are eligible for the TAMP. TAMP provides healthcare coverage for 180 days after termination of active duty. During this period, claims for the RC Soldier and family's healthcare are subject to the same TRICARE deductibles and cost shares paid by active duty family members.

b. Under TAMP, RC Soldiers and families are authorized to enroll in TRICARE Prime if they live in an area where Prime is available; normally, this is within 50 miles or a one-hour drive of an MTF. RC Soldiers and families residing in an area where Prime is not available must use either the TRICARE Standard or Extra benefit and pay the applicable deductible and cost share.

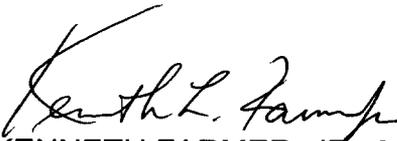
c. Unless Congress extends the Temporary Reserve Healthcare Program past 31 December 2004, the TAMP benefit may revert to 60 days for RC sponsors and families with fewer than six years of total service and 120 days for RC sponsors and families with six years or more total service.

d. More information about TAMP may be obtained from the TRICARE website: www.tricare.osd.mil

4. Depending on the nature of their healthcare needs, RC Soldiers may use both TAMP and LOD treatment benefits at the same time. It is important that the correct benefit is used to ensure medical readiness obligations are met and that personal medical costs are minimized.

5. The point of contact for LOD issues is Mr. Mike Brock, Military Medical Support Office, 1-888-647-6676, Extension 6698.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:


KENNETH FARMER, JR., M.D.
Major General
Deputy Surgeon General