

CHAPTER 9
SECTION 2.1

MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY FOR TRICARE/CHAMPUS BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Issue Date: April 19, 1983

Authority: Section 5, Public Law 97-251

I. ISSUE

The effect of Medicare eligibility on certain TRICARE/CHAMPUS beneficiaries who are Federal employees.

II. BACKGROUND

On January 1, 1983, Federal employees began paying into the Medicare trust fund. Certain TRICARE/CHAMPUS beneficiaries who are Federal employees and over age 65 were not eligible to enroll in Medicare when they became 65. For example, a Federal employee who became entitled to TRICARE/CHAMPUS at age 60, based on retirement from the Reserves, might not have acquired sufficient quarters of coverage from employment under social security to qualify for Medicare at age 65. As of January 1, 1983, these beneficiaries became eligible for Medicare, Part A because of their payment into the trust fund. These beneficiaries may begin enrolling in Medicare in January, 1983, and the earliest their benefits will start is July 1, 1983.

III. POLICY

A. TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility will end on July 1, 1983, for any TRICARE/CHAMPUS beneficiary who:

1. Is a Federal employee;
2. Is age 65 or older or otherwise meets Medicare requirements for eligibility.
3. Was not eligible for Medicare prior to January 1, 1983.

B. TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility will end whether or not the beneficiary enrolls in Medicare.

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