

## SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Issue Date: February 14, 1984

Authority: DoD Appropriation Act, 1980

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### I. ISSUE

Services and supplies provided to TRICARE/CHAMPUS beneficiaries who are Veterans with a service-connected disability are covered.

### II. BACKGROUND

Public Law 96-173, amended Title 10, United States Code, to provide that any person eligible for medical care under TRICARE/CHAMPUS, who is a veteran with a service-connected disability may not be denied care and treatment for such disability under TRICARE/CHAMPUS solely because such person is eligible for care and treatment for such disability in Veterans' Administration facilities.

### III. POLICY

When an individual has entitlement to services because of a service-connected disability, and also is TRICARE/CHAMPUS entitled, that individual has the right to choose the program desired for that particular episode of care. In cases of dual eligibility between TRICARE/CHAMPUS and the Veterans Administration, coordination of benefits does not apply. TRICARE/CHAMPUS benefits may not be extended for any episode of care received from civilian providers for which the Veterans Administration has made payment or reimbursement or has authorized such payment or reimbursement to be made. Once the individual has selected the program of choice, crossover is not permitted for that episode of care. The individual is responsible for complying with the rules of the program chosen. If failure to comply results in denial of benefits, TRICARE/CHAMPUS can not cost-share for services related to that episode of care.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE            October 1, 1979.

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