

BENEFICIARY EDUCATION

In addition to its responsibility to provide information to beneficiaries concerning the TRICARE Standard Program, the MCS contractor shall develop a beneficiary education program to inform beneficiaries about the TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Extra programs. This program shall include the distribution of education materials to all enrollee households, supplying educational materials at every TRICARE Service Center and at every Health Benefits Advisor's office, the monthly submission of articles for publication in MTF/base newspapers, participation in all "newcomer orientations" at all bases, and conducting general information sessions for all demographic categories (for example, active duty personnel, active duty family members, new retirees and their dependents, dual-eligible beneficiaries, et cetera) at each MTF at least every six months.

1.0. EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

1.1. The MCS contractor shall conduct one three-day TRICARE training course each quarter covering all aspects of the program including, but not limited to, TRICARE, overseas, dual-eligibles, et cetera. The location of the course shall be within the region; however, the exact location will change each quarter to allow maximum participation by Uniformed Services personnel who require an in-depth understanding of TRICARE to successfully accomplish their assigned duties. The contractor shall follow the Government provided training material (slides, notes, etc.) in delivering the course. The Government will provide all handouts for the course. Government furnished facilities will not be provided.

1.2. The MCS contractor shall conduct three one-hour training sessions, followed by a question and answer session, for clinical personnel at each MTF/DTF monthly. Training sessions will be at the date and time specified by the MTF/DTF Commander and may correspond with the hours personnel work at the facility. The contractor shall also conduct one one-hour training session, followed by a question and answer session, for administrative personnel at each MTF/DTF monthly. The contractor shall follow the Government provided training material (slides, notes, etc.) in delivering the course which will cover all aspects of TRICARE including, but not limited to, TRICARE Prime, Extra, and Standard, financial impact of MTF decisions on both the beneficiary and the MHS, dual-eligibles, et cetera. The Government will provide all handouts for the course. Government-furnished facilities will be provided for the course location.

1.3. The MCS contractor shall provide one one-hour briefing, followed by a question and answer session, weekly to an audience specified by the MTF/DTF Commander. Examples of audiences are Ombudsmen, support groups, obstetrical patients, retiree groups, parent groups, dual-eligibles, etc. The contractor shall follow the Government provided training material (slides, notes, etc.) in delivering the course. Government-furnished facilities will be provided for the course location. The MCS contractor shall actively announce each briefing

time, location, and audience through base publications, local fraternal organizations, and flyers posted throughout the base.

1.4. The MCS contractor shall conduct three one-hour briefings, followed by a question and answer session, for military recruiters in the region, annually. The briefings shall occur during the recruiters' annual regional/district conference and cover all aspects of TRICARE. The contractor shall use the Government provided training materials (slides, notes, etc.) in delivering the course. The Government will provide all handouts for the course. Government-furnished facilities will be provided for the course location.

1.5. The MCS contractor shall provide one one-hour briefing covering all aspects of TRICARE, followed by a question and answer session, annually, at each Reserve/National Guard unit listed in the websites below. The Regional Director will provide the date and time of each briefing annually. The MCS contractor shall use the Government provided training materials (slides, notes, etc.). Government furnished facilities will be provided at the course location. The Government will provide all handouts for the course.

- Air National Guard: http://www.goang.com/contact/unit_map.asp
- Army National Guard: <http://www.army.mil/installations/map.htm>
- Navy Reserve: <http://www.navres.navy.mil/navresfor/navair/assets.html>
- Marine Reserves: <http://www.marforres.usmc.mil/units/mapofunits.shtml>
- Air Force Reserves: <http://www.afreserve.com/bases.asp>
- Army Reserves: <http://www.army.mil/usar/> or <http://www.army.mil/installations/map.htm>

2.0. APPROVAL OF BENEFICIARY EDUCATION MATERIALS

All beneficiary education materials, including written materials, briefings, and other methods of publicizing the program, as well as the identification of the media to be used, shall be submitted through the appropriate Regional Director to the Contracting Officer for approval. The contractor shall forward the material to the appropriate Regional Directors not later than 90 calendar days prior to initiation of health care delivery and 120 calendar days prior to the start of each subsequent health care delivery period. No beneficiary education materials may be released under any circumstances without prior TRICARE Contracting Officer approval. The beneficiary education materials will be approved for a one-year period.

The contractor shall provide representation at four MCS contractor conferences (senior management level) at TMA, annually. The costs for attendance at these meetings are included in the MCS contractor's cost for Administrative Support Services. These meetings are in addition to all other meetings required elsewhere in the contractors of the manual.

3.0. BENEFICIARY SURVEYS

In accordance with DoD Instruction 1100.13, and Health Affairs Policy Memorandum 9700012, surveys of military members, retirees and their families must be approved and licensed through issuance of a Report Control Symbol (RCS). Contractors shall not conduct written or telephonic beneficiary surveys without the approval of the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) Program Analysis and Evaluation Directorate. TMA has an ongoing survey research and analysis program which includes a periodic survey of DoD beneficiaries. The survey addresses health status, use of care, satisfaction with military and civilian care, and attitudes toward TRICARE. The data are collected at the catchment area level and can be aggregated to the regional level. Regional reports containing catchment area data are available through the Regional Director. Contractors shall work with the Regional Directors to define both their ongoing and special purpose requirements for survey data. Contractors with special needs not met by an existing instrument may submit surveys, sampling plans, and cost estimates to the TMA, Program Analysis and Evaluation Directorate, through the Regional Director for approval and licensing.

