

PRIME AND STATUS CHANGES

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I. POLICY

A. When the TRICARE eligibility status changes, eligibility for TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Prime benefits also changes.

B. When TRICARE eligibility ends, eligibility for TOP Prime ceases.

C. The Managed Care Support Contractor (MCS) will send a copy of the claim and Explanation of Benefits (EOB) to the appropriate TOP Regional Director. The TOP Regional Director, or designee, is responsible for disenrollment of the beneficiary from TOP Prime (as of the date of his/her change in status) and for advising the beneficiary of his/her status change and options for reenrollment.

D. For active duty family members, single enrollment can be changed to family at any time during the TOP enrollment period. A new TOP enrollment period shall be established for the family.

E. In cases of a change from single status to family based on the birth of a child or adoption, the new family member of the Prime enrollee will be considered enrolled as of the day of birth or adoption and given up to 120 days to decide whether to continue Prime or disenroll the child. During the first 120 days the MCS contractor shall consider the newborn as enrolled. If the child/newborn is not enrolled in Prime by the 121st day, the child/newborn reverts to Standard. For newborns and newly adopted children who are enrolled under this provision, Point of Service cost-sharing does not apply through the 120th day or until an enrollment decision is made by a responsible representative, whichever is earlier. All services shall be processed under TOP Prime even in the absence of referrals or authorizations.

NOTE: In the case of a reservist who has been called to active duty for more than 30 days but less than 179 days their family members are eligible for TOP Standard only. When the reservist orders are for 179 days or greater their family members are eligible for TOP Prime.

F. TOP enrollees may disenroll from TOP Prime at any time if the enrollee is moving out of the Overseas Region, or if the enrollee requests voluntary disenrollment. All other voluntary disenrollments require approval of the MTF Commander or Regional Director. If

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approval is not granted, the enrollee may appeal the decision to the appropriate Regional Director.

G. For more information on status changes related to retirees, family members of retirees, family members of deceased active duty members, etc., refer to [Chapter 10, Section 3.1](#).

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