

PAYMENTS TO BENEFICIARIES/PROVIDERS

1.0. CHECKS

When issuing checks for payments to beneficiaries and providers, the contractor shall use the following formats/statements:

- The check shall be dated the same date the contractor received authorization from TMA, CRM Budget Office to release checks.
- The words "TRICARE Payment" shall be printed in at least 18-point font at the top of the check.
- The TRICARE logo and the contractor's name and address shall be on the check.
- The following endorsement statement shall be printed using 4 or 5 point type in the 1.5 inches allotted on the reverse side of the check. This will comply with Federal Reserve Bank Regulation CC regarding check endorsements. The endorsement shall read as follows:

"This payment is made with Federal funds. Fraud in procuring, forging of signature or endorsement, or materially altering this check is punishable under the U.S. Criminal Code. IF PAYABLE TO A PARTICIPATING PROVIDER OF SERVICES - By endorsing this check, the undersigned payee agrees that he/she is subject to the terms of the participating agreement (assignment) as set forth in the TRICARE regulation."

- A statement that the check must be negotiated within 120 calendar days.

2.0. ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

2.1. Payments may be made by EFT to beneficiaries and providers. EFTs shall be done under the same guidelines as checks other than situations unique to EFT type transactions (i.e., EFTs do not staledate since an EFT is accepted or returned almost immediately).

2.2. *The contractor may require providers who submit claims electronically to also accept an electronic remittance advice and to receive payment by EFT.*

