

REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR SPECIALTY CARE

ISSUE DATE: December 21, 2001

AUTHORITY: [32 CFR 199.17\(n\)\(2\)\(vi\)](#); JFTR, Chapter 7, Part Y; Public Law 110-181
Section 1632 (which amended 10 USC 1074i); [Public Law 111-281](#)
[Section 203](#)

I. POLICY

A. **Non-active duty TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR)** enrollees referred for **non-emergent medically** necessary specialty care over 100 miles (**one way**) from their Primary Care Manager's (PCM's) office to the nearest specialist's office may be eligible to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. Entitlement is limited to those specialty referrals when no other specialist (i.e., Military Treatment Facility (MTF), network or non-network specialists) is available within 100 miles (**one way**) of the PCM's office. The only exception is when the beneficiary agrees to a referral to a center of excellence or MTF.

B. **A retiree** with a combat-related disability (**as determined by a member's Branch of Service**), not enrolled in TRICARE Prime, **and** referred by a Primary Care Provider (PCP) for follow-on specialty care **related** to that **specific disability as listed in Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) letter**, more than 100 miles (**one way**) from where the PCP provides services to the **retiree**, may be eligible to receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses. The TRICARE Regional Office (TRO) **for** the region in which the retiree resides **will determine** if the specialty care is more than 100 miles (**one way**) from the provider's office. The **contractor shall** refer inquiries about travel reimbursement for retirees with combat-related disabilities to the **Regional Director (RD)** travel representative or **Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC)** for further information and assistance.

C. **The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, signed into law on October 15, 2010, authorizes reimbursement for travel to specialty care less than 100 miles (one way) for a non-active duty Coast Guard beneficiary (active duty dependents only) who resides on an island within CONUS, with no public access roads to the mainland, and for one medically necessary attendant. Entitlement is limited to those specialty referrals when no other specialist (i.e., MTF, network or non-network specialist) is available on the island. The beneficiary must be enrolled in TRICARE Prime and referred to a specialty care provider by their PCM. The contractor shall refer inquiries about travel reimbursement for Coast Guard beneficiaries to the Coast Guard Health, Safety and Work-Life (HSWL) service center (see paragraph F).**

D. **For patients eligible for travel reimbursement under paragraphs A. through C., if the PCM or PCP deems it medically necessary, travel orders and reimbursement may be**

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authorized for one Non-Medical Attendant (NMA) to accompany a non-active duty patient referred for applicable specialty care. The NMA must be a parent, an adult family member, a legal guardian or a companion who has been delegated a medical Power of Attorney (POA) by the patient or legally responsible party.

E. Except for Coast Guard beneficiaries, MTFs will validate the travel expense entitlement and issue travel orders for specialty referrals issued by military PCMs, and the RDs or designated government representatives will validate the travel entitlement and issue travel orders for specialty referrals from civilian PCMs. Travel reimbursements allowed under paragraphs A. through C. will be reimbursed in accordance with the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR). Travel reimbursement claims must be filed no later than one year after the qualifying travel date (exceptions may be made for patients eligible for travel reimbursement under paragraph B). Travel expenses will not be authorized for elective procedures or non-covered benefits. Except for Coast Guard beneficiaries (see paragraph F.), the contractor shall refer travel requests for MTF-enrolled Prime beneficiaries to the MTFs and civilian-enrolled Prime beneficiary requests to the RD or designated government representative for authorization, orders and claims processing if it appears the beneficiary may be entitled to travel benefits. Non-Coast Guard beneficiaries with questions about the these travel benefits and the NMA entitlement should contact their local MTF or RD travel representative or BCAC for assistance. Telephone numbers and addresses for BCAC are available on the TRICARE website at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/bcacdcao>.

F. The contractor shall refer inquiries about travel reimbursement for Coast Guard beneficiaries to the Coast Guard HSWL service center health benefits team for administrative processing of their travel. HSWL service center health benefits team is available by contacting 1-800-9HBAHBA (1-800-942-2422) or via the following address:

Commanding Officer HSWL Service
ATTN: Health Benefits
300 E. Main St, Suite 1000
Norfolk, VA 23510

II. EFFECTIVE DATES

- A. October 30, 2000, for TRICARE Prime enrollees.
- B. January 1, 2008, for retirees with a combat-related disability.
- C. October 15, 2010, for TRICARE Prime Coast Guard island dwellers.

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