

PRIME AND STATUS CHANGES

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I. POLICY

A. When a beneficiary's TRICARE eligibility status changes, eligibility for TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Prime benefits may also change.

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

C. For active duty family members (ADFMs), 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.

D. In cases of a change from single status to family based on the birth or adoption of a child, the new family member of the Prime enrollee will be deemed to be enrolled in Prime as of the day of birth or adoption. A responsible representative will have 60 days to officially enroll the child to the Prime option. If the newborn/adoptee is not enrolled in Prime during the 60 day calendar period, the newborn/adoptee will revert to a non-enrolled beneficiary effective the 61st day. For newborns and newly adopted children who are deemed enrolled, Point of Service cost-sharing does not apply through the 60th 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: The enrollment in TOP Prime of a new family member does not apply in the case of a reservist who has been called to active duty for a period of 30 consecutive days or less, since the dependents of the reservist are not eligible to enroll in TOP Prime.

E. For those newborns and adoptees who are covered under the 60 day "deemed enrollment" benefit, claims will be processed as TOP Prime for this period. If the newborn or adoptee is formally enrolled during this period, process using enrollment status. If the newborn or adoptee is not formally enrolled during the 60 day calendar day period, at the end of the 60th calendar day period, the contractor shall process all claims as a non-enrolled beneficiary, applying the appropriate TRICARE cost-shares and deductibles.

NOTE: The TRICARE Regional Director of each TRICARE Regional Office and Director of each TRICARE Area Office (TAO) are granted the authority to extend the deemed period up to 120 days, on a case-by-case or regional basis.

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL 6010.54-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 12, SECTION 3.3

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F. TOP ADFM may disenroll from TOP Prime at any time. Normal TRICARE rules regarding 12-month enrollment lock-outs and waivers shall apply (see Chapter 12, Section 3.2, paragraph I.I.).

G. For more information on status changes related to retirees, family members of retirees, family members of deceased ADSMs, etc., refer to Chapter 10, Section 3.1.

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