

EXPIRED As Of September 30, 2015 - Pilot Program for Refills of Maintenance Medications for TRICARE For Life (TFL) Beneficiaries through the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP)

1.0 PURPOSE

This pilot program will allow the Department of Defense (DoD) to evaluate potential cost savings by shifting a portion of the TRICARE for Life (TFL) retail prescription refills to the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP).

2.0 BACKGROUND

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, 70 million prescriptions were filled for TRICARE beneficiaries through the TRICARE retail pharmacy benefit at a net cost of \$3.8 billion to the government. Of those prescriptions, 33 million or 47% were filled for TFL beneficiaries at a cost of \$2.2 billion to the government. On average, the government pays 17% less for maintenance medications filled at TMOP than through the retail program. There is potential for significant savings to the government by shifting a portion of the TFL prescription refills to TMOP.

3.0 POLICY AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1 The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2013 establishes a pilot program requiring TFL beneficiaries to obtain retail prescription refills for select maintenance medications from the TMOP. TFL beneficiaries are not restricted from using the Military Treatment Facility (MTF) for prescription fills.

3.2 TFL beneficiaries are identified per [Chapter 20, Section 1](#). Active Duty (AD), Active Duty Family Members (ADFM), retirees and their family members are not required to participate in this program. TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) TFL beneficiaries, with the exception of those beneficiaries residing in the U.S. territories, may not be eligible for this pilot program. In order to be eligible they need to be residing in a country that allows use of TMOP, have prescriptions written by a U.S. licensed provider, and have an APO/FPO mailing address.

3.3 Maintenance medications are defined as medications prescribed for a chronic, long-term condition that is taken on a regular, recurring basis. Those maintenance medications which are clinically appropriate and cost-effective to dispense at TMOP will be included in the program as select maintenance medications.

3.4 A refill is defined as either a subsequent filling of an original prescription under the same prescription number (or other authorization as the original prescription), or a new original

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Chapter 18, Section 16

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prescription for the same medication, strength and form issued at or near the end date of an earlier prescription.

3.5 Defense Health Agency (DHA) will establish, maintain, and periodically revise and update a list of select maintenance medications accessible at <http://www.health.mil/SelectDrugList> and by telephone through the pharmacy contractors call center.

3.6 The NDAA authorizes a waiver of the mail order requirement based on patient needs and other appropriate circumstances. There is a blanket waiver for prescription medications that are for acute care needs. There is also a blanket waiver for prescriptions covered by Other Health Insurance (OHI). This waiver is obtained through an administrative override request to the TRICARE pharmacy contractor under procedures established by the Director, DHA.

3.7 The pharmacy contractor will notify beneficiaries of the new rules and the mechanisms which allow them to receive adequate medication during their transition to TMOP.

3.8 The pharmacy contractor will provide a toll free number to assist beneficiaries in transferring their prescriptions from retail pharmacies to TMOP.

3.9 Beneficiaries will be advised that they may receive up to two, 30-day fills at a retail pharmacy while they transition their prescription. The beneficiary will be contacted after each of these two fills and advised that the prescription must be transferred. Requests for a third fill at retail will be blocked and the beneficiary advised to call the pharmacy contractor for assistance.

3.10 Beneficiaries may opt out of the pilot program after one year of participation. The one year participation is calculated based on the first date of service (after program implementation) the beneficiary has a maintenance medication prescription filled at TMOP. The beneficiary may exercise his or her right to opt out of the program by contacting the pharmacy contractor. Following an opt out, the beneficiary may obtain prescriptions from a retail pharmacy, subject to the normal limitations and procedures under the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits Program.

4.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

This demonstration expires effective September 30, 2015. The NDAA FY 2015, Section 702 mandates beneficiaries to obtain select brand name maintenance medications from the TMOP or the MTF pharmacy beginning October 1, 2015 (see TRICARE Policy Manual (TPM), [Chapter 8, Section 9.1](#)).

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