

## TRICARE Alaska

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### 1.0 GENERAL

**1.1** All provisions contained in the TRICARE Managed Care Support (MCS) contract, TRICARE Operations Manual (TOM), TRICARE Policy Manual (TPM), TRICARE Systems Manual (TSM), or TRICARE Reimbursement Manual (TRM) shall apply in the state of Alaska except as specifically modified by this chapter. Chapter references in this section refer to the TOM unless otherwise specified.

**1.2** The TRICARE program is not automatically implemented in all areas where it is potentially applicable. Implementation of the program requires an official action by an authorized individual in accordance with 32 CFR 199.17(a)(5). Network implementation will be published in the **Federal Register**.

### 2.0 OPTIMIZATION

While overall responsibility and accountability remains with the Regional Director (RD), TRICARE Regional Office West (TRO-W), the MCS Contractor (MCSC) is responsible for managing network provider development and operations in the state of Alaska.

**2.1** Consistent with existing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), the MCSC shall optimize the Military Treatment Facility (MTF) for all appropriate specialty requests for care received from outside of the MTF within established TRICARE guidelines and access standards. Specialty care that cannot be provided by the MTF or scheduled within TRICARE access standards in the MTF shall be referred to the network as determined by MCSC in coordination with the MTF.

**2.2** The MCSC shall use every appropriate opportunity for beneficiary and provider education to influence beneficiary and provider behavior in a manner that encourages MTF optimization.

### 3.0 BENEFICIARY SATISFACTION

The contractor shall achieve the highest level of beneficiary satisfaction possible in the state of Alaska. The contractor's administrative processes shall be designed and operate to ensure ease in accessing TRICARE information and benefits. These processes shall be designed recognizing the unique nature of health care delivery within the state of Alaska and continuously operated in a manner that achieves the highest level of beneficiary satisfaction. Additionally, beneficiary satisfaction activities shall be coordinated with MTFs and the TRO-W Alaska Branch to achieve a coordinated, uniform approach to Department of Defense (DoD) customer services in Alaska.

#### **4.0 BEST VALUE HEALTH CARE**

The contractor shall support the best value in the delivery of health care services in the state of Alaska through the efficient operation of all administrative processes. This includes supporting MTF right of first refusal, educating beneficiaries and providers on the benefit of using the MTF based on the collaborative agreement with the MTF Commander, and efficiently and effectively operating all administrative processes.

#### **5.0 TRANSITIONS**

The contractor shall be fully responsible for all transition activities in the state of Alaska. The contractor shall ensure all required contractor services are fully operational in accordance with [Chapter 1](#).

#### **6.0 ACCESS TO DATA**

The contractor shall provide ready access to Government personnel for the state of Alaska in the same manner as provided in all other West Region locations.

#### **7.0 ADMINISTRATION**

The contractor shall comply with all provisions of [Chapter 1](#), with the following exceptions:

**7.1** Contractor accomplished preauthorization shall be limited to inpatient mental health care for non-Prime enrollees and those enrolled to civilian Primary Care Managers (PCMs). The MTF will preauthorize/authorize all services for TRICARE Prime enrollees, as required. The MCSC shall comply with the preauthorization requirements specified in [Chapter 7, Section 2](#).

**7.2** The contractor shall process any grievance related to contractor personnel or contractor actions. Grievances related to MTF providers shall be forwarded to the responsible MTF within five calendar days of receipt (see [paragraph 19.0](#) for appeals) for resolution. The contractor shall process all grievances related to civilian providers consistent with [Chapter 11, Section 8](#).

**7.3** The contractor shall accomplish all Start-up Requirements as specified in the TOM except the provisions of [Chapter 1, Section 7, paragraph 2.2](#), "Execution of Agreements With Contract Providers" shall not apply. However, the MCSC shall load all preferred providers to the MCSC's provider directory within 30 days.

#### **8.0 RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 2](#).

#### **9.0 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

The contractor shall comply with all of the provisions of the TOM. The contractor shall apply the appropriate financial provisions to the claims for TRICARE enrollees in the state of Alaska based on the Government's ultimate decision regarding the underwriting of health care performed in Alaska.

## 10.0 PROVIDER CERTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALING

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 4](#) for providers rendering care in the state of Alaska.

## 11.0 SUPPORT OF TRICARE PROVIDERS

**11.1** The contractor is required to provide assistance to the Government in servicing participating and non-participating providers. This assistance shall include certifying and credentialing providers according to [paragraph 10.0](#). The contractor shall provide the appropriate level and number of provider representatives to service the participating and non-participating providers throughout the state of Alaska. The provider representative shall be located in contractor furnished facilities in close proximity to the MTF. The provider representative shall assist in establishing provider networks. The contractor's provider representatives shall also assist providers with TRICARE questions/problems as necessary. In this role, the provider representative shall be supported by all appropriate contractor staff and systems. For example, if a provider wishes to determine the status of a claim, he can call the contractor's claims information toll-free telephone number or check the status via an electronic means. However, if a provider requests the assistance of an individual on-site at the provider's office to resolve problems, the provider representative shall provide the assistance.

**11.2** Alaskan providers shall not be required to submit claims electronically. As such, Alaskan claims shall be removed from both the numerator and the denominator when computing the percentage of claims submitted electronically.

## 12.0 ENROLLMENT

**12.1** The contractor is responsible for all enrollment activity in the state of Alaska in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 6](#).

**12.2** TRICARE Prime enrollments within the state of Alaska shall all be to PCMs located within a MTF or in PSAs around a limited number of MTFs, to PCMs in the TRICARE network.

**12.3** Where TRICARE Prime enrollment to private sector PCMs is permitted, the contractor shall coordinate with the MTF Commander to ensure the combined total of MTF and private sector enrollees does not exceed the number for which compliance with TRICARE Prime access to care standards can be assured, considering MTF and preferred provider network resources together. Enrollment will be to the MTF first and then to the private sector at the discretion of the MTF Commander in coordination with the contractor.

## 13.0 UTILIZATION AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 7](#), regarding utilization and quality management. In doing so, the contractor shall establish a separate utilization management plan for care received in the state of Alaska. This plan shall recognize that the MTF PCM is responsible for services rendered to his/her TRICARE Prime enrollees. As such, the MTF is responsible for issuing all authorizations for its Prime enrollees. The contractor is responsible for ensuring that MTF issued authorizations are entered into all applicable contractor systems to ensure accurate, timely customer service, and claims adjudication.

**13.1** Cases for care rendered in the state of Alaska shall be included in the selection of cases for review by the TRICARE Quality Monitoring Contractor (TQMC) per [Chapter 7, Section 3](#). If the TQMC identifies an aberrant provider from the state of Alaska, and the provider is a network provider, the MCSC shall advise the TRO-W Alaska Branch of the findings.

**13.2** The contractor shall comply with and include care rendered in the state of Alaska in its Clinical Quality Management Program (CQMP) per [Chapter 7, Section 4](#). The Clinical Quality Management Program Annual Report (CQMP AR) shall include a separate section specifically addressing Alaska.

**13.3** All potential quality issues and unusual provider findings by the TQMC during their case reviews shall be processed and investigated by the MCSC per existing Clinical Quality Management (CQM) policies.

#### **14.0 CLAIMS PROCESSING**

The contractor shall process claims in accordance with [Chapter 8](#).

#### **15.0 DUPLICATE CLAIMS**

The contractor shall comply with [Chapter 9](#), as appropriate, for the identification, correction and resolution of duplicate and potentially duplicate claims.

#### **16.0 CLAIMS ADJUSTMENTS AND RECOUPMENTS**

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 10](#), regarding claims adjustments and recoupments.

#### **17.0 BENEFICIARY AND PROVIDER SERVICES**

**17.1** The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 11, Section 1](#) relating to the provision of marketing and education materials in the state of Alaska.

**17.2** The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 11, Section 2](#) and the TRICARE MCS contract, Section C-7.17 regarding briefings within the state of Alaska.

#### **18.0 CUSTOMER SERVICE OPERATIONS**

The contractor shall **provide customer service support to include benefit and enrollment assistance to all beneficiaries** in the state of Alaska. The functions of the **contractor's call center** shall be as specified in [Chapter 11](#). In providing assistance with referrals, the MCSC shall first direct all beneficiaries to the MTF (beneficiaries referred out of the MTF for specialty services shall not be referred back to the MTF) and then to the network providers. The MCSC shall maintain an up-to-date list of network providers.

**18.1** The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 11, Section 3](#) in accomplishing Beneficiary, Congressional, and Health Benefits Advisor (HBA) relations within the state of Alaska.

**18.2** The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 11, Section 4](#) in responding to inquiries regarding TRICARE within the state of Alaska.

**18.3** The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 11, Section 5](#).

**18.4** The contractor shall provide toll-free telephone service to Alaskan beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 11, Section 6](#).

**18.5** The contractor shall provide allowable charge reviews in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 11, Section 7](#).

**18.6** The contractor shall operate a grievance process in accordance with [paragraph 7.2](#) and [Chapter 11, Section 8](#).

**18.7** The contractor shall administer collection actions against beneficiaries in accordance with [Chapter 11, Section 9](#).

## **19.0 APPEALS AND HEARINGS**

The contractor shall implement and operate an appeals system for services requested or rendered in the state of Alaska in accordance with [Chapter 12](#).

## **20.0 PROGRAM INTEGRITY**

The state of Alaska shall be included in the contractor's regional Program Integrity Program per [Chapter 13](#).

## **21.0 AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND REPORTS**

**21.1** The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 14](#), regarding audits, inspections, and reports. The MCSC shall provide a monthly preferred provider adequacy report as described in the Contract Data Requirements List (CDRL) DD Form 1423, and submit the information to the Contracting Office and the RD, TRO-W.

**21.2** The TRICARE network should be developed so that 75% of enrollee referrals are to an MTF or civilian network provider.

## **22.0 REGIONAL DIRECTOR (RD)/MTF CONTRACTOR INTERFACES**

The contractor shall comply with the requirements of [Chapter 15](#) when developing and operating MTF and RD interfaces. The contractor shall also enter into an agreement with the TRO-W Alaska Branch, as required by the MCSC, regarding contractor activities in the state of Alaska.

## **23.0 TRICARE PRIME REMOTE (TPR) PROGRAM**

The contractor shall operate the TPR program in the state of Alaska in accordance with [Chapter 16](#).

**24.0 CIVILIAN CARE REFERRED BY MHS FACILITIES**

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 17](#) in the state of Alaska.

**25.0 CIVILIAN HEALTH CARE (CHC) OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS**

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 17](#) for services in the state of Alaska provided through the Supplemental Health Care Program (SHCP).

**26.0 DEMONSTRATIONS**

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of [Chapter 18](#) for eligible beneficiaries in the state of Alaska.

**27.0 HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996 (HIPAA)**

The contractor shall comply with the provisions to [Chapter 19](#) when administering the TRICARE program in the state of Alaska.

**28.0 TRICARE DUAL ELIGIBLE FISCAL INTERMEDIARY CONTRACT (TDEFIC)**

The contractor shall not be responsible for services that are the responsibility of the TDEFIC contractor in the state of Alaska. This does not relieve the MCSC from their customer service responsibilities to dual eligible beneficiaries.

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