

VOLUME 7A, CHAPTER 54: “TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM”**SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES**

All changes are denoted by **blue font**.

Substantive revisions are denoted by an * symbol preceding the section, paragraph, table, or figure that includes the revision.

Unless otherwise noted, chapters referenced are contained in this volume.

Hyperlinks are denoted by **bold, italic, blue, and underlined font**.

The previous version dated March 2013 is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
5401	Inserted General section and renumbered remaining sections, paragraphs, and subparagraphs accordingly.	Revision
540208	Updates premium rates.	Revision
Bibliography	Updated statutes.	Revision

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CHAPTER 54

TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM (TDP)

*5401 GENERAL

The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), administered by MetLife, is a worldwide dental care plan offered to eligible beneficiaries by the Department of Defense (DoD) through the TRICARE Management Activity.

5402 TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM (TDP)

540201. Enrollment Eligibility

The TDP is a voluntary dental plan available to eligible family members of all Active Duty Uniformed Service personnel and to Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members and/or their eligible family members. The TDP is offered by the DoD through the TRICARE Management Activity. To be eligible for the TDP, the sponsor must have at least 12 months remaining on his or her service commitment with the parent Service at the time of enrollment. Individuals eligible to enroll in the TDP include the following:

A. Selected Reserve and IRR service members; and

B. Family members of active duty, Selected Reserve, and IRR service members. This includes spouses and unmarried children (including stepchildren, adopted children, and wards) under the age of 21. Family members will be eligible up to the end of the month in which they turn 21. Family members may be eligible after 21 if:

1. They are enrolled full time at an accredited college or university and are more than 50 percent dependent on the sponsor for their financial support. These students are eligible to the end of the month in which they turn age 23. If the student terminates his or her education prior to turning 23, then eligibility ends at the end of the month in which education terminates; or

2. They have a disabling illness or injury that occurred before their 21st birthday or between the ages of 21 and 23 enrolled as a full-time student at the time of illness or injury, and they were more than 50 percent dependent on the sponsor for financial support.

540202. Individuals Who Are Not Eligible for TDP Coverage

Active duty service members are not eligible for the TDP. In addition, former spouses, parents, in-laws, disabled veterans, foreign personnel, and retirees and their families are not eligible for TDP benefits.

540203. Enrollment Period

All new enrollees must remain enrolled in the TDP for at least 12 months. Enrollment may continue on a month-to-month basis after completing the 12-month minimum enrollment lock-in period. Anyone who fails to pay premiums or dis-enrolls for other than a valid dis-enrollment reason is prohibited from re-enrolling in the program for 12 months.

540204. Enrollment Form

Enrollment must be initiated by the sponsor and is accomplished by completing a TDP Enrollment Form. If the sponsor is not available to complete and sign the form, an individual with a Power of Attorney (POA) can initiate enrollment, providing the POA allows the individual to enter into contracts. Forms are available by visiting the local military dental treatment facility, TRICARE Service Center, Health Benefits Advisor/installation point of contact, or accessing the TRICARE Web site, <http://www.tricare.mil>.

540205. Effective Date of Coverage

In most cases, coverage is effective the first day of the month after the month in which the completed form and one (1) month's premium payment is received by the TDP contractor. TDP Enrollment Forms must be received by the 20th of the month for coverage to begin on the first day of the next month. For applications received after the 20th of the month, coverage may not become effective until the first day of the second month.

540206. Dis-enrollment

New enrollees must remain enrolled in the TDP for a minimum of 12 months. Anyone who dis-enrolls from the program prior to completing his/her 12-month "lock-in" period is responsible for payment of all remaining premiums, unless dis-enrolling for a valid reason. The following are valid reasons for dis-enrolling from the TDP prior to completion of the mandatory 12-month enrollment:

A. When a sponsor or family member loses Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System eligibility due to death, divorce, marriage of a child, end of entitlement, or when a family member reaches age 21 (or 23 if enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university);

B. When TDP-enrolled members relocate outside the continental United States service area, the service members may elect (within 90 calendar days of the relocation) to dis-enroll their family members and/or themselves from the TDP;

C. When an active duty member, transfers with enrolled family members to a duty station where space-available dental care for the enrolled members is readily available at the local Uniformed Service dental treatment facility, the active duty member may elect (within 90 days of the transfer) to dis-enroll his family members from the TDP; or

D. When an active duty, Selected Reserve or IRR member is transferred to the Standby Reserve or Retired Reserve.

540207. Other Dis-enrollment Situations

The TDP contractor will notify the sponsor of the dis-enrollment and explain the enrollment/dis-enrollment options and any associated premium changes and time limitations for the following situations:

A. If one member in a marriage of two service members leaves the Uniformed Services and has family members assigned to him, then the family members can be re-enrolled to the other service member without incurring a new 12-month lock-in period;

B. When an active duty Component member transfers to the Reserve Component (Selected Reserve, Guard/Reserve on active duty, or IRR). The enrolled family members are dis-enrolled from the TDP;

C. When a member of the Reserve Component transfers to an active duty Component, the enrolled member and/or family members are dis-enrolled from the TDP;

D. When the sponsor changes from one branch of service to another;

E. When a member of the Selected Reserve, (National Guard/Reserve) or IRR (Special Mobilization Category), changes status to IRR (other than Special Mobilization Category), the enrolled member and/or family members are dis-enrolled from their current plan and automatically re-enrolled into the appropriate plan. The enrolled member/family members may elect to dis-enroll from the TDP if desired; or

F. When a member of the Selected Reserve (National Guard/Reserve) or IRR is called to active duty for more than 30 days, the member is dis-enrolled effective on the first day of the active duty orders. Enrolled family members remain enrolled in the current TDP plan until the last day of the month in which the sponsor changes status. Family members are automatically re-enrolled in the program as active duty family members with the lower premium rate under the existing lock-in period.

***540208.** Premium Amounts

Effective February 1, 2014; the single beneficiary TDP premium rate is \$10.96 per month, and the family beneficiary TDP premium rate is \$32.89 per month.

540209. Premium Billing Allotments

If the member has a payroll account and if sufficient funds are available at the time of collection, then the Government will collect the member's share of the premium, in advance, through a Uniformed Service finance office or site. Members must monthly verify that the correct dental allotment appears on their Leave and Earnings Statement.

540210. Direct Billing Process

If there are insufficient funds or no payroll account is available at the time of collection, then the member must pay the premium costs by means of direct billing. When this occurs, premium collection will transfer, from the Uniformed Service finance office or site payroll allotment to direct billing by the TDP contractor. Once the TDP contractor direct bills this payment process will continue, until the member requests the TDP contractor to restart the payroll allotment. The TDP contractor will immediately direct bill for premiums due from IRR service members and from Selected Reserve and IRR family members.

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