



Important Pharmacy News

The US Family Health Plan (USFHP) adheres to the TRICARE Uniform Formulary. The TRICARE Uniform Formulary covers most FDA approved prescription medications. In general, for a medication to be covered under the TRICARE (USFHP) pharmacy benefit it must:

- Be a prescription medication approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
- Not be part of a procedure covered under the medical benefit; and,
- Be prescribed in accordance with good medical practice and established standards of quality care.

Medications that are not medically or psychologically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of a covered illness are not covered by TRICARE (USFHP). The Department of Defense (DoD) Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee recommends medications for the Uniform Formulary and the Director, TRICARE Management Activity, makes the final decision.

Co-payments are required by the DoD and the amount will depend on whether the drug is generic - formulary (Tier 1), brand – formulary (Tier 2) or Non-formulary (Tier 3). The co-payment for generic prescriptions is \$3, brand prescriptions are \$9, and prescriptions for TRICARE 3rd tier medications are \$22. Co-payments cover up to a 30-day supply when filled at a participating pharmacy for up to a 90-day supply when filled by Maxor Mail Order Pharmacy.

Some prescription medications may have TRICARE mandated pre-authorization requirements. If a brand name medication has a generic equivalent, it is DoD policy to dispense the generic equivalent instead of the brand name medication. The brand name medication will be dispensed only if it is determined that it is clinically justified after careful review of the clinical information provided by the prescriber.

TRICARE (USFHP) also has quantity limits. Quantity limits are applied by the DoD to address the issue of overuse of medications that can be unsafe for the patient and costly to the government. Exceptions to established quantity limits may be made if the prescribing provider is able to justify medical necessity.

Maxor is the US Family Health Plan's partner in managing the pharmacy benefit. Maxor Plus Pharmacy is available to assist with TRICARE Uniform Formulary and other clinical questions. A Maxor Plus pharmacist is always available after routine customer service hours for emergency situations.

USFHP has a mail order requirement for routine refills of most prescription medications. Mail order saves time and money.