



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

OCT 11 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: HQ USAF/SG
110 Luke Ave., Room 400
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050

SUBJECT: Support to Geographically Separated Units (GSUs)/TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR)
Enrollees

We have a responsibility to ensure our active duty service members (ADSMs) stationed in geographically remote areas have access to appropriate and timely healthcare and receive that care as seamlessly as possible. Of late, several unsettling instances have surfaced, leading me to reiterate the basic concept of military treatment facility (MTF) responsibility to these ADSMs.

GSU members are usually enrolled to a civilian primary care manager (PCM) through the TPR program. However, when a TPR member's medical condition warrants referral to an MTF for either administrative reasons (LOD, MEB, etc.) or specialty care, the MTF becomes clinically responsible for that patient. If the MTF subsequently refers the patient to the local network, while maintaining clinical oversight of the patient's care, the approval/authorization process rests with the *referring* MTF. Under no circumstance will the Service Point of Contact (SPOC) at the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO) be asked to place an authorization into the system for a TPR enrolled patient when an MTF initiated the referral. If the patient's clinical needs exceed MTF oversight capability, care management is returned to the civilian PCM through the SPOC. These same guidelines apply to part-time National Guard (less than 31 days AD) and Reserve personnel referred to our MTFs for medical and administrative support.

The supporting MTF commander has direct control of patient travel funding for GSU members as outlined in AFI 41-101, Obtaining Alternative Medical and Dental Care, the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR), and AFH 41-114, Military Health Services System (MHSS) Matrix. Specifically, the closest and largest AF MTF provides AD patient travel reimbursement. Place of enrollment has no bearing on payment responsibility.

For further information or clarification, my points of contact are Major Bob Jordan, MMSO/AF SPOC, 1-888-647-6676 ext. 715, and MSgt Jeannine Kepner, HQ USAF/SGMC, DSN 297-5424.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard M. Randolph, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

LEONARD M. RANDOLPH, JR.
Major General, USAF, MC
Deputy Surgeon General

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