

## Ongoing TRICARE Reform and Fee Increases

(Taken from the February issue of the FCOC)

There were **NO** TRICARE-FOR-LIFE enrollment fees or deductibles in 2020.

While Congress enacted no new programmed TRICARE fee increases in the FY 2020 defense bill, several previously scheduled fee increases took effect Jan. 1:

**Enrollment fees for retirees who entered service prior to Jan. 1, 2018.** TRICARE Prime: \$300 (single)/\$600 (family), up from \$297/\$594;

**TRICARE Select: No fee.** Enrollment fees for retirees who entered service after Jan. 1, 2018. TRICARE Prime: \$366 (single)/\$732 (family), up from \$360/\$720; TRICARE Select: \$471 (single)/\$942 (family), up from \$462/\$924.

**Retail pharmacy fees.** \$13 for 30-day supply of generic, \$33 for brand name, \$60 for non-formulary (up from \$11, \$28, and \$53, respectively).

**Mail-order pharmacy fees:** \$10 for a 90-day supply of generic, \$29 for brand name, \$60 for non-formulary (up from \$7, \$24 and \$53, respectively – an average increase of 25%)

**TRICARE Expands List of Drugs It Won't Cover** The Defense Health Agency has been excluding some prescription drugs from TRICARE coverage after the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act included a provision allowing DHA to do so.

Now, drugs that DHA categorizes as “Tier 4/non-covered” are excluded from coverage under TRICARE. These Tier 4 drugs cannot be obtained at pharmacies at military treatment facilities. They also aren't available through the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery Program. Tier 4 drugs are only available at retail pharmacies at full out-of-pocket cost to the beneficiary.

While MOAA understands the rationale for establishing Tier 4 to improve formulary management, we are concerned about where this process is headed. We are monitoring Tier 4 drug reviews closely to ensure DHA follows congressional intent and moves to Tier 4 only those medications that “provide very little to no clinical effectiveness.” MOAA is pressing DHA to establish an appeals process for Tier 4 determinations.

Beneficiaries can find out all drugs TRICARE currently covers by searching the [TRICARE formulary](#) or calling Express Scripts at (877) 363-1303