## RAO Newsletter 2020-11 - TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees for Group A Retirees Coming January 2021

9/30/2020

Did you hear the news about <u>TRICARE Select enrollment fees</u>? TRICARE Select <u>Group A</u> retirees must begin paying enrollment fees to maintain health coverage starting on Jan. 1, 2021. TRICARE Select is the name of the plan that replaced the former TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra programs in 2018.

**Group A:** If you or your sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment occurred before January 1, 2018, you are in Group A. if your initial enlistment or appointment or that of your uniformed services sponsor began before Jan. 1, 2018. You may have received a letter about these changes. This is the first time this beneficiary group will pay enrollment fees, a change mandated by Congress.

"If you're a Group A retiree, you must set up payment for your TRICARE Select fees before the end of TRICARE Open Season," said Mark Ellis, chief of the Policy and Programs Section of the TRICARE Health Plan at the Defense Health Agency. "Open season runs from Nov. 9 until Dec. 14."

During TRICARE Open Season (Nov. 9–Dec.14), you may set up a monthly allotment, where feasible, through your regional contractor (Humana Military) for your monthly payments to start on Jan. 1, 2021. If you don't receive your retirement or other pay from a military pay center, you can make payments via electronic funds transfer from your U.S. bank account, credit card, or debit card. Your regional contractor will guide you in setting up payment.

The enrollment fees are:

- Individual plan: \$12.50 per month or \$150 annually
- Family (two or more) plan: \$25 per month or \$300 annually

The fee change only affects Group A retirees and their family members enrolled in <u>TRICARE</u> <u>Select</u>. Most groups will experience no change. This change doesn't impact TRICARE Select beneficiaries in these groups:

- Active duty family members
- Survivors of deceased active duty service members
- Medically retired retirees and their family members

This change doesn't impact you if you're using one of the following plans:

- TRICARE For Life
- TRICARE Prime
- TRICARE Reserve Select
- TRICARE Retired Reserve
- TRICARE Young Adult

Only those family members enrolled in TRICARE Select (with a Group A retiree sponsor) pay the new enrollment fee. If enrollment is only for one family member, then they would pay the individual enrollment fee, not the family enrollment fee.

If you want to check if your health plan has enrollment fees and what they may be, you can visit the <u>TRICARE Costs</u> tool. There you can also find other costs or compare costs of different plans. You can also find many costs in the <u>TRICARE Costs and Fees Sheet</u>.

Visit the <u>TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees</u> page for updates. Learn more about <u>TRICARE Open Season</u> and be informed about your 2021 health care benefits. If you want to get updates about open season and other TRICARE news, <u>sign up for email alerts</u>.

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