

TRICARE Begins Raising Prescription Drug Copay

Copayments for prescription drugs at TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery and retail pharmacies will go up beginning this month.

The changes are required by law and affect TRICARE beneficiaries who are not active-duty service members.

While retail-pharmacy and home-delivery copayments will increase, prescriptions filled at military pharmacies will remain available at no cost.

Using home delivery, the copayments for a 90-day supply of generic formulary drugs will go from \$0 to \$7. For brand-name formulary drugs, copayments will rise from \$20 to \$24, and copayments for nonformulary drugs without a medical necessity will increase from \$49 to \$53.

At a retail-network pharmacy, copayments for a 30-day supply of generic formulary drugs will go from \$10 to \$11 and from \$24 to \$28 for brand-name formulary drugs.

TRICARE groups pharmacy drugs into three categories: generic formulary, brand-name formulary and nonformulary. Generic formulary drugs are the cheapest and nonformulary drugs the most expensive.

This begins a steady increase in pharmaceutical costs between now and 2026. Fees for a 30-day supply of a generic drug at a retail pharmacy and a 90-day supply by mail will reach \$14, and a 30-day supply of nongeneric at a retail pharmacy or a 90-day supply by mail will hit \$45.

Officials said last year that the fee increases would save the Defense Department \$2.1 billion by 2022.

More information on new pharmacy copayments is available online at www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts. To learn more about the pharmacy program or to move your prescriptions to home delivery, visit www.tricare.mil/pharmacy.

The pharmacy fee increase is not the only TRICARE change in 2018 affecting retirees. TRICARE Select has replaced TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. If you were already eligible for TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra on Dec. 31, 2017, you should have been automatically enrolled in TRICARE Select.

But newly eligible retirees will have to enroll for themselves. Once you formally retire after reaching age 60, you will have 90 days to enroll. Otherwise, you will have to wait until the open enrollment period begins in November.

Additional information and enrollment instructions are available at www.tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/Select.