NDAA FY13 Change in Abortion Coverage Exception (Shaheen Amendment)
for Patients Who are Victims of Rape or Incest
Status Update for DACOWITS
February 2014

- March 11, 2013:
  - ASD (HA) issued a memorandum (HA 13-010) updating of Health Affairs Policy 96-030 regarding the provision of abortion services. The Services were directed to update their MTF policies and procedures and to ensure that health care personnel are trained and knowledgeable about this statutory revision that allows for coverage of abortion procedures necessitated by rape or incest.
  - Coverage for these services is retroactive to January 2, 2013.
  - Mechanism are in place to refer victims to the civilian sector (TRICARE purchased care) if services are not available at their MTF.
  - Changes were made to the TRICARE Operations Manual to reflect this change and allow for appropriate billing in the purchased care sector. The provider billing instructions are included in the TRICARE policy manual and the policy has been implemented. The only requirement to allow for payment is a note by the provider that the pregnancy was due to rape or incest. Payment coding and billing of abortion procedures protect confidentiality.
  - A Servicewoman can seek services in the civilian sector without a referral.
  - OCONUS, women will be transferred for services in places where host nations do not allow the procedure.
- March-April, 2013: A Tri-Service group including program managers, providers and the POC for OASD(HA), began meeting to ensure expeditious implementation of the changes. Discussions have included HA/TMA OGC, Service OGC and TMA quality experts to assure coordination between direct and purchased care when necessary.
- Training at MTFs has been updated and information has been disseminated through lead OBGYN Service providers
- April, 2013- Present: The OASD(HA) Health Affairs Women's Health Issues Working Group (HAWHIWG) has coordinated implementation of the abortion policy at the Service level to assure consistency in guidelines and procedures across the services.
- HAWHIWG accomplishments:
  - Developed "Core Elements" for Service policy and guidance development
  - Input into development of an administrative guidance and a provider guidance at the Service and MTF level (currently being coordinated at each Service level)
  - Worked with Service subject matter experts to develop an informal system to help identify trained providers
- August, 2013
  - The TRICARE beneficiary website was updated to reflect the change, added to the "Frequently Asked Questions" page
  - TRICARE Managed Support Contractors have launched a provider education campaign to assure that medical providers are aware of the benefit

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